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Wilson Resigns His Office

Labor Begins Selecting Prime Minister Next Week



Mr. Wilson fielding questions at a news conference after announcing his resignation.

By Robert B. Sample Jr.

LONDON, March 16 (NYT)—Prime Minister Harold Wilson stunned Britain today by resigning.

The resignation will take effect as soon as the Labor party members of the House of Commons have chosen a successor. Voting will begin next week.

Mr. Wilson has been a fixture in British politics for 30 years, 13 of them as Labor's leader, 8 of

• Harold Wilson's profile. Page 2.

them as prime minister—from 1964 to 1970 and from 1974 until now. He said he was not leaving politics, only the post of prime minister.

In a statement issued from Downing Street, he said in part: "In March, 1974, I decided that I would remain in office for no more than two years. I have not wavered in this decision and it is irrevocable."

The decision took the capital by surprise and immediately started speculation about his successor.

The leading candidates appear to be James Callaghan, the foreign secretary, and Denis Healey, chancellor of the Exchequer, with three others regarded as somewhat longer shots: Roy Jenkins, the home secretary, Anthony Crosland, secretary of the environment, and Michael Foot, secretary for employment.

The decision raised a host of questions about Mr. Wilson's motives and his sense of timing, since he himself admitted that he had chosen to leave at a critical juncture in his government's effort to contain inflation and restore the British economy.

He had apparently confided in few people.

He said that in 1974, when he last came to office, he wrote him-



James Callaghan



Denis Healey



Roy Jenkins

self a confidential memorandum setting last fall's Labor party conference as the date on which he would retire. He amended this to direct the anti-inflation policy, he said, but on Dec. 9 he informed the Queen—the only person he publicly admitted having shared his confidence with—that he would depart this month.

He saw the Queen this morning to announce his resignation, then informed his Cabinet.

Mr. Wilson publicly offered four reasons for his resignation, all of which turned one way or the other on his belief that he had held the office long enough and that others should be given a chance.

He mentioned first his long service as prime minister—longer than that of any of his predecessors in this century—and his additional service as party leader and in Cabinet posts. Second, he said, he saw a "clear duty" not to remain while "others are denied the chance."

Third—and here there was at

least some political calculation—Mr. Wilson said that he should give his successor enough time to establish his own style and authority "for the remaining years of this Parliament." Unless the government is defeated in a major vote of no-confidence, on a national crisis occurs, Mr. Wilson's successor could conceivably remain in office until the next general election is required by law in 1979.

Finally, Mr. Wilson conceded in so many words that a fresh point of view might be useful and that he might simply be growing a bit stale in the job.

"There is a danger to which I have been alerted all my working life," he said. "It is that, in times of rapid change, you may be faced with a decision which, perhaps in different conditions, you have faced before."

He went on to say that there might be a tendency to make the same choices made the first time around, without giving them the fresh consideration the circumstances may require.

Mr. Wilson emphasized at a news conference this afternoon that he did not expect his successor to adopt radical changes in policy—especially on economic issues—but to carry it on with renewed vigor.

On the whole, the first instinct among members of Parliament and the press was to take Mr. Wilson's explanation at face value, if only because there were so few other explanations available.

Reaction among ordinary Britons was difficult to gauge since most seemed too surprised to register one. Labor's most political hives, including union leaders, gave Mr. Wilson high marks on his political career, although this was to be expected. Some business and financial leaders, pleased with Mr. Wilson's recent economic policies, wondered whether his successor could or would sustain them.

A few Conservatives seized on Mr. Wilson's departure as proof that his party was falling apart. Kenneth Warren, a Tory member

from Hastings, said that Mr. Wilson had deserted the ship and that, "without a captain, the boat must now begin to sink and it will be interesting to see who now claims the right to man the lifeboat."

When Mr. Wilson appeared in Parliament for the usual afternoon question period, he was greeted with cheers.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Tory leader, said that "in spite of the political battles, we wish you well in your retirement." She could not resist asserting that the country was still suffering from "great financial difficulty" and that the best way to "resolve the uncertainty" would be to "put the matter to the people for their vote."

Mr. Wilson said in reply that he flatly rejected the assertion that the economy was not showing improvement and that an election was required to set things right.

Jokes With Reporters

At his news conference, Mr. Wilson joked with journalists with whom he has quarreled often and asserted that "I am as fit now as I was 20 years ago, and carrying rather less weight." He said he knew how "solicitous my friends in the press can be," but warned them not to take his resignation as proof that he had suddenly developed a major ailment.

In explaining that he was not leaving politics, Mr. Wilson said he would continue to represent his home constituency in Parliament and would stand again for election if necessary.

Politically, he had seemed to be on solid ground. He took a battering in Commons last week when the left wing of his party, by abstaining, helped the Conservatives carry a resolution criticizing his economic policies. But the next night, in a general vote

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Franjeh Left Out of Talks

Beirut Leaders Summoned to Syria

Jonathan C. Randal

BEIRUT, March 16 (WP)—Relations to solve the Lebanese were moved to Damascus in a clear indication that intends to impose a settlement despite violent opposition by new leftist and Palestinian militias based in this country.

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that Mr. Franjeh's successor in the traditionally Christian presidential office is not being imposed by force.

Damascus considers the Lebanese Christians' acceptance of the next president as a prerequisite for ending the nearly year-old Lebanese civil war.

Wide-ranging violence in and around this capital today demonstrated that the war has not ended. Forty-three persons were reported killed and 100 wounded in battles between rival militia units in the seaport hotel area and in clashes along Christian-Muslim confrontation lines in the suburbs.

Dozens of persons were report-

ed kidnapped and no area of Beirut was safe from gunmen prowling the streets.

Gunmen stormed Beirut's Al-Ramel jail, in a Muslim area, and released 700 prisoners, some of them convicted murderers. Further north, other gunmen freed 250 of the more than 1,000 in Roumleil jail, the country's biggest prison. It is a Christian area and those released were Christian prisoners, police sources said.

Angered by the efforts of Lebanese leftists and Palestinian guerrillas here to force Mr. Franjeh from office and impose a choice of their own, the Syrians summoned to Damascus some of the leading figures in the five days of events since the commander of the Beirut army garrison, Brig. Gen. Aziz Alndah, last Thursday took control of the capital and demanded Mr. Franjeh's resignation. Damascus considers the ongoing slow-motion coup to be basically an anti-Syrian operation.

Arafat and Others

Among those called to Damascus were the overall Palestinian guerrilla leader, Yasser Arafat; Naef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Zuhair Mohsen of the Syrian-controlled al-Salqa guerrilla group; and Lt. Ahmed Khawab, the 32-year-old Lebanese army deserter who set the stage for the present crisis by taking over about a dozen army installations last week.

Conspicuously absent from the group going to Damascus was Kamal Jumblatt, the Socialist leader of the Lebanese left, who ignored the Syrian call. He made no secret of his fury over Damascus's intervention to block the coup yesterday, when al-Salqa and other Syrian-backed guerrilla forces dug into positions that halted advances toward the presidential palace by rebel Lebanese troops.

Before slipping off to the mountains in nearby Aley, ostensibly to avoid any overt Syrian pressure, Mr. Jumblatt said in an interview at his home: "The Syrians should pull out. Their role is finished. The government question is purely Lebanese."

Palestinian sources reported

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Nixon Freeway Gets New Name

SACRAMENTO, March 16

(AP)—The California State Assembly has approved a measure renaming the Richard M. Nixon Freeway. It voted 41 to 12 yesterday to rename the 3 1/2-mile Los Angeles area roadway the Marina Freeway.

State transportation officials said the change will be made immediately on signs posted along the highway.

U.S. Halts Energy, Trade Talks With Russia

By Bernard Gwertzman

WASHINGTON, March 16 (NYT)—Because of Soviet military involvement in Angola, the United States has decided not to participate for the time being in Cabinet-level meetings of various Soviet-U.S. joint commissions set up in recent years when détente was in vogue, State Department officials said today.

There are nine such commissions, but the decision has so

Moscow's Aid to Angola Is Cited

far affected only three, those dealing with trade, housing and energy. The others were not due to meet until late in the year, and by then, the United States might decide to participate, officials said.

Robert Fumest, the department spokesman, announced the decision on the trade, housing and energy commissions when he said that "in light of the situation in Angola, we felt we could not con-

duct our business with the Soviet Union as usual."

The Ford administration's action, however, was clearly a limited one and not meant to disrupt overall Soviet-U.S. relations. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, repeated that the government's anger over Soviet involvement in Angola would not affect the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and would not lead to any halt in the export of grain to the Soviet Union.

Mr. Fumest also disclosed that the negotiations which have been going on since Jan. 25 for a Soviet-U.S. oil agreement had been recessed because of failure to agree on a formula for shipping rates on the oil that would be sold to the United States. But he stressed that the oil talks were unrelated to the actions on the joint commissions.

Ever since the Soviet-backed Angolan forces acceded to power in the civil war there—with the help of 12,000 Cuban troops and some \$200 million in Soviet military aid—the Ford administration has been seeking to send "signals" that this would harm Soviet relations with this country.

Since the U.S. policies on détente with the Soviet Union have come under attack during the

current political campaign, the administration has been cautious about its dealings with Russia.

Mr. Ford has said he prefers to avoid the word "détente" while nevertheless still pursuing better relations. This has led to an administration-wide circular, also sent to embassies overseas, advising that the word not be used by officials.

Also, Mr. Kissinger has stepped up his verbal attacks on the Soviet Union without going so far as to repudiate his own policies. He has called for support of

• Failure in Strategic Arms Limitation Talks might cost U.S. \$11 billion. Page 3.

what he called again today the "dual policy" of trying to "firmly resist and deter adventurism" while keeping open the possibility of more constructive relations with Moscow.

Alluding to the various joint commissions set up as the result of former President Richard Nixon's three summit meetings with Leonid Brezhnev in 1972, 1973 and 1974, Mr. Kissinger said the United States favored enlarging bilateral cooperation "when political conditions permit it."

Ironically, at the very moment when the administration was "signaling" its irritation with the

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

CIA Says Israel Has 10 to 20 A-Weapons

By Arthur Kramish

WASHINGTON, March 16 (WP)—Israel is estimated to have 10 to 20 nuclear weapons "ready and available for use," according to senior officials of the CIA.

The estimate, made in response to a question at a rare, semi-public CIA briefing last Thursday, goes well beyond previous U.S. estimates of Israeli nuclear strength, both in weapon quantity and readiness.

On other subjects, the CIA officials described the Soviet space program as a "shambles" following a series of major launch failures. The Soviet Union has apparently abandoned any plans for manned lunar landings, they said.

The nonclassified briefing at CIA headquarters was held for Washington-area members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. About 150 persons paid \$5.50 to have

cocktails, a light buffet and nearly two hours of discussion with top-ranking CIA officials.

The guests were told in advance not to bring cameras or to take notes and were requested at the meeting not to "quote us to the press." A few of the guests, like myself, were reporters.

CIA officials said the agency's decision to hold such briefings reflects a policy to present a more "open" CIA following damaging press and congressional disclosures of past illegal and questionable activities.

The only previous briefing was held for graduates of the Harvard Business School. CIA officials indicated.

But chief CIA spokesman Angus Thuermer told a reporter that the agency had provided background briefings for some citizens, mostly business executives, for the last eight years.

(The newly installed CIA di-

rector, George Bush, issued a statement yesterday taking "full responsibility" for the disclosure of secret information at the briefing.

[Mr. Bush said: "There was a clear understanding beforehand that the discussions were private and not for publication or further dissemination."

New Guidelines

[He said he was "determined it will not happen again and will issue new guidelines with respect to what may be discussed at such meetings in the future."

[The New York Times reported today that Mr. Kramish said he told CIA officials before and after the briefing that he intended to write an article about it and "met no objections." CIA officials said yesterday that vigorous objections had been made, the Times said.]

Last July, the Boston Globe reported that U.S. government analysts "believe that Israel has made more than 10 nuclear weapons" but indicated that this estimate was based on circumstantial evidence, such as development of a missile delivery system and output of Israeli nuclear reactors.

Last week's briefing was apparently the first time, however, that CIA officials made a public estimate of Israel's nuclear capability. No further details were given.

Asked to assess Soviet technology, the intelligence agency officials stressed their belief that the Soviet Union has significant research capabilities, but also has a problem in applying advanced technology.

As an example, an official said, Soviet scientists can design advanced electronic circuitry but "don't know how to build a clean room"—a dust-free facility needed for electronic assembly work. Such "clean rooms" are common

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Ford Camp Confident of Victory

Turnout Is Mixed as Illinois Primary Begins

CHICAGO, March 16 (AP)—

President Ford's camp was confident of winning its fifth primary victory today as Illinois voters began to choose between him and challenger Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Reagan had already predicted he would lose Illinois to Mr. Ford.

Democratic voters were selecting between Georgia's Jimmy Carter, Alabama's Gov. George Wallace, Sargent Shriver and Fred Harris of Oklahoma.

Despite an overnight snowfall in sections of central and southern Illinois, the weather was sunny and chilly in Chicago and the skies cleared elsewhere across the state for election day—the first Midwestern primary.

Early reports from election officials on the turnout were mixed, however, making uncertain how many of the state's 5.76 million registered voters would cast ballots.

Low Level Seen

The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners projected a turnout of around 40 per cent, a low level compared with previous presidential years. In 1972, the vote was slightly above 50 per cent.

In the Chicago suburbs, voting in scattered precincts was reported to be light, although in downstate Rockford and East St. Louis several polling places reported heavy voting.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Shriver

both criticized Secretary of State Henry Kissinger yesterday for their final campaign stops before the ballot. Gov. Wallace insisted that his partial paralysis would not impair his ability to be president. He then crisscrossed the state by plane, touching down at Mount Vernon, Danville, Alton and Springfield.

In a state in which the Democratic vote is dominated by Mayor Richard Daley's Chicago machine, Mr. Carter was trying to finish off Gov. Wallace's presidential bid, while the Alabamian fought to repair damage from Mr. Carter's victory in the Florida primary last week. Mr. Shriver, out of funds after beatings in New England, hoped the mayor's ward workers would rescue his candidacy.

Second Bomb in Two Days Explodes on London Subway

From Wire Dispatches

LONDON, March 16 (UPI)—In the second such attack in two days, a bomb exploded on a subway train tonight. The explosion occurred shortly after the train's passengers had left it at North London's Wood Green station.

Scotland Yard said one man was injured by flying glass. The victim, Peter Cox, 50, was not seriously hurt, the police said.

The bomb went off at 9:15 p.m. just as the train pulled into a tunnel from the station. The explosion derailed it in the tunnel.

Police have blamed the current bombings on the Irish Republican Army, which warned last weekend of a new onslaught.

Tonight's blast occurred about 36 hours after a bomb explosion in a subway train outside east London's West Ham station slightly injured nine persons.

have been a premature detonation of a bomb being planted by a man who was one of those injured. In an attempt to escape, police said, the suspect fatally shot one pursuer, a West Indian who was the train's engineer, and wounded another pursuer, a post office employee. The authorities said that as police closed in to capture him, the suspect shot himself in the stomach.

Held under guard today in a London hospital, the suspect was identified by police as Vincent Kelly, 38, a native of Castlefinn, County Donegal, Ireland.

Scotland Yard detectives said he has lived in Britain since 1971, apparently mainly in south-west London, where he worked as a steel erector. The Scotland Yard anti-terrorist squad is seeking the suspect's recent associates and a possible explosives factory.

Beirut Chiefs Summoned to Talks in Syria

Franjeh Is Left Out Of Widened Parley

(Continued from Page 1)

that Mr. Arafat was also angry at Syria for frustrating plans to oust Mr. Franjeh and give Mr. Arafat's leftist allies a free hand.

All the Damascus visitors except as-Saqa's Mr. Moshin have been backed by various anti-Syrian sources—ranging from Iraq to Libya to Egypt—that have their own reasons for wanting to embarrass Syrian President Hafez al-Assad's efforts to stop the fighting and form a government of national reconciliation here.

Curbs Feared

The Palestinian guerrilla groups of Lebanon fear potential Syrian control of their activities. The Lebanese left is convinced that Syria will shortchange them in any "reconciliation" government.

But the Palestinians and leftists' ill humor is not without its political calculation, for it allows them to claim that without Syrian intervention they would have carried the day.

In any Syrian-Palestinian showdown, Syria has the whip hand for it can close down the guerrilla training camps on its soil.

Even without the Khattab-led take-over of army installations—which led to Gen. Abiad's putsch Thursday and obliged Syria to intervene again when Mr. Franjeh refused to resign—the Damascus regime would have had a decisive say in choosing the next president.

Thus, although a Palestinian spokesman described both the Syrians and the Palestinians as "playing a game of chicken," the contest's outcome was considered virtually a foregone conclusion.

Given the halo of sanctity surrounding the guerrilla movement in Arab public opinion—and Syria's role as purveyor of the Arab-world pure-major fighting was hardly in the cards, according to observers.

The Candidates

Thus, with a Syrian-imposed freeze on the military, front, Lebanese went back to their guerrilla game involving Mr. Franjeh's successor.

The front-runner continued to be the governor of the central bank, Elias Sarkis, who lost to Mr. Franjeh by a single vote in 1970 and who seems acceptable to Syrians, Palestinians, the left and the right.

Other contenders include a parliamentary deputy, Raymond Edde, who is opposed by Syria and the extreme right; Maj. Gen. Henna Said, the armed forces commander, and various minor personalities such as Lucien Daddah, Jean Aziz, Pierre Helou and Selim Boustros Khoury.

4 U.S. Satellites Sent Into Orbit By Titan Rocket

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., March 16 (AP)—Two nuclear-powered Air Force communications satellites designed to foil an enemy's sabotage attempts against them were placed in orbit yesterday, along with two Navy satellites.

The four military craft were fired into space last night aboard a powerful Air Force Titan-3C rocket. Early today, the third stage of the rocket was fired again and placed the satellites into orbit 23,300 miles from earth.

The twin 1,000-pound Air Force satellites will remain in station at orbit. The 400-pound Navy satellites, designed to monitor solar radiation, will continue their journey through space for about three months until they reach final orbits about 75,000 miles from earth and on opposite sides of the globe.

The Air Force satellites, by using nuclear power and special circuits, are designed to be far more impervious to enemy action or radiation in space than any previous satellite, officials said. The two are expected to get the pace for advanced jam-proof satellites of the future.

Kidnappers Release Mexico Soccer Chief

MEXICO CITY, March 16 (AP)—Kidnappers released Mexican Soccer Federation chairman Juan de Dios de la Torre last night in Guadalajara, a mountain resort 370 miles northwest of Mexico City, after his family paid an undisclosed ransom.

Mr. de la Torre, 53, was kidnapped a week ago by the self-styled Fidel Castro Command, which security authorities described as an ultra-leftist guerrilla organization.

Danish Fighter Crash

KOLDING, Denmark, March 16 (Reuters)—A Lockheed-designed Starfighter of the Danish Air Force crashed near here today as the two crewmen parachuted to safety. The defense command said an explosion in the plane was believed to have caused the crash.



Israeli soldier shouting at Ramallah residents to observe the curfew in occupied city.

Israel Warns West Bank On Protests

TEL AVIV, March 16 (UPI)—Defense Minister Shimon Peres today warned West Bank leaders that the army would act vigorously to put down violent protests in the occupied territory.

"The authorities are responsible for peace and quiet and they will use this authority unhesitatingly," a spokesman quoted him as saying in talks with the mayors of Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron.

The police in Jerusalem, meanwhile, used tear gas to break up crowds of rock-throwing young Arabs who demonstrated against a court ruling that would allow Jews to pray at the Temple Mount, a site holy to Judaism and Islam.

Mr. Peres met with the mayors at his office in the Defense Ministry complex in Tel Aviv after the military governor of the West Bank clamped an indefinite curfew on the town of Ramallah.

"It is the responsibility of the town mayors to represent the requirements of the residents and prevent deterioration which would only have adverse effects on themselves," he was quoted as saying.

The spokesman said Mr. Peres also told the mayors that Israel expected to go ahead with municipal elections scheduled in 16 West Bank towns April 12.

Court Ruling

The West Bank and Arab quarters of Jerusalem have been seething with unrest since the Jan. 29 ruling, which the government opposed and appealed to a higher court.

The Temple Mount complex contains the Al Aqsa mosque, third holiest shrine in Islam, and is the traditional site of a Jewish temple destroyed by Roman legions in AD 70.

Arab sources have said the unrest stemmed from other causes as well, in large part general dissatisfaction with eight years of Israeli rule.

Israeli sources said the upcoming local elections were also a factor. They blamed pro-Palestine Liberation Organization elements for trying to strengthen their cause by sponsoring protest demonstrations.

In Ramallah, the streets were deserted on the second day of total curfew. Soldiers fired in the air to remind residents to stay indoors. A military court fined three Arabs 300 Israeli pounds (\$40) each for violating curfew regulations.

8 Niger Soldiers Died to Bar Coup

NIAMEY, Niger, March 16 (Reuters)—Eight soldiers loyal to the Niger government were killed in yesterday's abortive attempt by an army faction to take power. It was officially announced today.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was still in force here, but those involved in the attempt to overthrow President Seyni Kountche were said to be in the hands of the military authorities.

The abortive coup against Lt. Col. Kountche, who came to power through an army coup two years ago, was led by Maj. Moussa Bayere, a former rural economy minister, and Capt. Sidi Mohamed, with the backing of National Workers Union leader Ahmed Mouddoud. There were unconfirmed reports that Maj. Bayere was wounded and Capt. Mohamed killed.

Wien Hilton

This beautiful new hotel is situated at the heart of Vienna, adjoining the new air terminal, and overlooks the famous Stadtpark. With its luxurious rooms, superb restaurants and elegant decor, the Hilton reflects the magnificence and traditions of Vienna itself.

News Analysis Pullout of Soviet Technicians Seen After Sadat Pact Move

By Jack Foise

It has been reported that the North Korean Embassy here was contacted regarding aid on spare parts, but no assistance was forthcoming.

A plea has been made to China, which has improved, in some cases, on Soviet models. The reported answer was that the Chinese spare parts were not compatible with Egypt's Soviet weapons.

Rulers Are Friendly

Romania and Yugoslavia, although their rulers are friendly to Mr. Sadat, have not provided Egypt with any help, [UPI] has reported that, according to sources, Yugoslavia will help Egypt overhaul the MIG-21s.

The Poles were approached on providing about 150 replacement tanks. The answer was that the purchases would have to be paid in hard currency, of which Egypt has little. But Egypt's rich Arab neighbors offered to pay—Saudi Arabia reportedly has offered Egypt \$300 million for military spending this year. This offer was relayed to Warsaw but there has been no further word.

"When papa bear growls, the little bears get the message—that's Communist unity," a foreign diplomat said.

Mr. Sadat's alternative is to keep his army, air force and navy viable during the next few years by purchases from West Germany, France, Britain and Italy. France has provided Mirage fighters, and West Germany might provide some Leopard tanks.

There is also Egyptian interest in upgrading the Soviet tanks and planes it has with new engines and guns from Western Europe.

Egypt's 1,000 tanks may get new British diesel engines and may have their Russian guns replaced, under an Italian bid, with U.S. 105-mm guns, which can use NATO ammunition.

Egypt's MIGs may get special Italian avionics "pods" to jam Israeli electronic-guided missiles. But a British offer to replace worn-out Soviet jet engines with British engines has been found to be unfeasible. British Rolls Royce engines produce too much heat for the MIG tailpipe.

Egypt's own weapons manufacturing is confined to small arms and ammunition.

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Ford Names Herter To U.S. Aid Position

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP)—President Ford said today that he is nominating Christian Herter Jr. to be assistant administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Mr. Herter, now deputy assistant secretary of state for environmental and population affairs, will succeed Sidney Weintraub, who resigned in November.

Mr. Herter and his military aides that the Egyptian armed forces of about 300,000 men will be stuck with weapons that are becoming obsolete, a diminished stockpile of artillery and tank ammunition—not fully replenished by the Soviet Union after the 1973 war with Israel—and a dearth of spare parts.

Mr. Sadat said in his speech on Sunday that within a year and a half much of the Soviet equipment and weapons will have deteriorated into "scrap." Foreign military observers agreed that, unless there is proper maintenance and storage, desert wind and sand will cause the deterioration of equipment very quickly.

"A serious degrading of the Egyptian military capacity is occurring," a foreign military attaché said.

It is known that the search continues for Soviet spare parts from countries other than Russia. An Egyptian request for MIG-21 spare parts from India was rejected because the Indian government said, Moscow had disappeared. A new request for the overhaul of Egyptian MIG-21s in India is pending.

The Czechs have supplied Egypt with some armored personnel carriers, but have not agreed to provide new guns or spare parts.

Meanwhile, three more persons were wounded in the so-called "poster war" between Maoists and Communists. The three were

shot in a central Lisbon gunfight before dawn today. In the dispute over the placement of rival party posters, one man has been killed and five wounded since Saturday.

Another dispute between political parties was a verbal feud between the Socialists and left-of-center Popular Democrats. Top Socialist figures called Popular Democratic leader Francisco Sa Carneiro "an imitative monkey" and effeminate.

The council statement urged the parties to tone down their rhetoric. The military leaders said: "It is hoped that the parties will show, in practice, their maturity and democratic tolerance and abstain from attacks against

Held Office for Four Terms Labor Prime Minister With Great Ambition

By Clay Harris

LONDON, March 16 (WP)—"Wilson is shrewd, witty, witty, analytical, classless, complex, subtle, industrious, ambitious, cool, single-minded, clever and tough. Frigidly clever and tough as old boots."

That list of adjectives sums up Harold Wilson as well today, when he announced his resignation as British Prime Minister and Labor party leader, as it did when it was published in a 1963 newspaper profile of him.

The only change one would make is to delete "ambitious," for the fulfillment of Mr. Wilson's ambitions has made him into a man extremely confident of his place in history.

He has reminded Britons again and again of the chronological record of his leadership of the party and of the nation. His eight years in office made him the longest-serving peacetime Prime Minister in this century. And his four consecutive election victories meant that he had won more times than any other party leader in British history.

As Labor party leader, Mr. Wilson's relationship with the British press has always been stormy. Basic ideological differences between the Labor party's Socialist programs and the overwhelmingly Conservative orientation of the press have been exacerbated by years of resentment that Mr. Wilson has been so resilient against all political odds, that he has been able to change his programs and policies and get away with it.

Sarcasm as a Weapon

Mr. Wilson has rarely, if ever, attacked the press with Nixonian bitterness. His method, especially recently, has been one of sarcasm. Mr. Wilson also was never reluctant to file libel writs against newspapers that made allegations about his personal conduct, or that of his close associates.

Mr. Wilson long has been cited for his "pragmatism" in politics. Much of his success in keeping the left wing of the Labor party in line has come from the reputation as a realist he gained by resigning from his Cabinet post in 1961 over a budget row not very different from the one that convulsed the Labor party last week. He took the side of the "left" then, opposing a major increase in the defense budget at a time when patients would be made to pay part of the cost of eyeglasses and false teeth under the National Health Service. His complaint, it turned out, was based on his economic analysis of the situation rather than a social principle, but it identified him with the left in a way that all the subsequent disagreements have not been able to dispel completely.

Still, it takes an extraordinary Prime Minister, who has led a Socialist party for 13 years, to admit as he did last year that he never got past the first chapter of Karl Marx's "Das Kapital."

Asked once why he did not even go through a youthful flirtation with the Communist party, Mr. Wilson replied that it was the influence of the Labor-Liberal coalition government of the early 1930s, as well as his reaction against "public [private] school Marxists" he met at Oxford.

In 1940, Mr. Wilson married Mary Baldwin, daughter of a congregational vicar, and they have two sons and two grandchildren. Mary Wilson has published several volumes of poetry.

The Wilsons have led a relatively unglamorous and unpretentious private life, without seeming to have overly contrived this image. They spend holidays in a bungalow on the Scilly Isles, off the tip of Cornwall.

Soon after being elected Labor leader in 1963, Mr. Wilson told his party colleagues in Parliament, "No one should be disappointed at not being asked for dinner. Nobody is being asked for dinner."

If he did put on airs, it was to emphasize his "common touch"—supporting his home-town soccer team, going to the pub, walking the dog.

The Boy Wonder

The fact that Mr. Wilson was a political "boy wonder" is rarely realized today, even in Britain. When he began his political career, his youth not only was

not an advantage, it could have been a detriment.

When he became a teacher at Oxford at the age of 21, Mr. Wilson was the university's youngest, don since Cardinal Wolsey at the turn of the 18th century.

A friend once described meeting young Mr. Wilson and his wife: "She was a very pretty young girl and she told me she was married to an Oxford don. I was surprised, because she looked only about 15. Then one day her husband came to coffee too, and he looked about 13."

It is not surprising, then, that less than 10 years later, after his election to Parliament, Mr. Wilson grew a moustache to give himself "a touch of age." He kept it during his tenure as president of the Board of Trade, a position in which his youth—by then he was in his early 30s—could have been a disadvantage.

Mr. Wilson was a boy wonder, but the emphasis was always on the "wonder."

He was born 60 years ago last Thursday in Yorkshire and lived for the first 16 years of his life in Huddersfield—a textile, coal and steel town.

Mr. Wilson's father was an industrial chemist, who took a 1/2-year-old Harold's photograph in front of 10 Downing Street and visited the House of Commons with him. Only 21 years later, Harold Wilson was back in the public gallery to hear his son's first speech as an MP.

Mr. Wilson's own boyhood ambition was to be chancellor of the exchequer, or so he wrote when he was 19 in a school essay. "Myself in 25 Years Time."

In 1934, he won a scholarship to study history at Oxford. He won a prize for an essay on "The State and the Railways, 1825-33," and he said, recently, that he regrets that his only copy of this paper was one of the items stolen in a series of burglaries from his homes.

He won a First, the highest distinction, in philosophy, politics and economics, and was named a lecturer and then fellow.

At the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Wilson volunteered for the army but was drafted instead into the civil service, working for a variety of ministries. Shortly before the end of the war, he resigned from the civil service, and was elected to Parliament for Labor in 1945.

He immediately made an unimpressive start. At the age of 31, he became the youngest British Cabinet minister since William Pitt in 1782, as president of the Board of Trade. He held post until his resignation in 1947.

In 1954, he rejoined the "Shadow Cabinet" of the Labor party, which had gone into opposition after defeat in the 1951 election. When party leader Hugh Gaitskell died in 1963, Mr. Wilson was a surprise victory for the leadership. A year later he had lost back into power, and he won a general election victory in 1966 and in February and October of 1974. The party's general election defeat under Wilson was in 1970.

Associated Press.

Harold Wilson and twin granddaughters at his country residence Chequers on Saturday.

Calls Step 'Irrevocable'

Wilson, Baring 1974 Decision, Resigns as Prime Minister

(Continued from Page 1)

of confidence, the dissidents returned to the fold and handed Mr. Wilson a solid victory on what also happened to be his 60th birthday.

Winning Margin Out

His party has not done well in three recent by-elections—in Coventry, where Labor retained a safe seat by a smaller margin than usual, and in two safe Tory seats, where the Conservatives increased their usual margins. A swing of these magnitudes nationwide would bring the Tories into power in a general election.

But Mr. Wilson seemed in no great danger of having such an election forced upon him. His working majority in the 635-seat Parliament—composed of Labor's 318 members, plus support from some Liberals, Scottish and Welsh Nationalists and members from Northern Ireland—has been holding together.

Finally, Mr. Wilson's economic policies of holding the line on wages, cutting spending plans and re-directing government revenue to productive industry appear to have won a broad acceptance and, in fact, have given the Tories very little to complain about. But the very success of these policies raised one of today's most interesting questions: Why did Mr. Wilson leave in midstream?

As Mr. Wilson himself put it near the end of his statement, Britain is at the "turn of the tide" in its effort to restore balance and vigor to the economy. And Mr. Wilson himself was instrumental in assembling the informal team of himself, Mr. Healey, Mr. Foot and Jack Jones.

The resignation of a Labor prime minister was without precedent. Clement Attlee resigned as party leader, but that was when the party was out of office. Hugh Gaitskell, another party leader, died when out of office.

Prime ministers have resigned twice on the Conservative side in recent years. In 1957, Anthony Eden resigned and Harold Macmillan succeeded him. When Mr. Macmillan resigned in 1963, Alec Douglas-Home was appointed.

U.S. Navy Orders Courts-Martial Of 2 in Collision

NORFOLK, Va., March 16 (AP)—The Navy ordered courts-martial yesterday for the captain of the Belknap and its officer of the deck at the time the guided missile cruiser collided with the carrier John F. Kennedy in the Mediterranean, off Sicily, on Nov. 21.

Eight persons died in the collision, and 47 were injured. Repairs to the Belknap are expected to cost millions of dollars and take more than a year to complete at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

Atlantic Fleet Headquarters said that after reviewing results of an investigation of the collision, it had ordered trials for Capt. Walter Shafer, commanding officer of the Belknap when the collision took place, and Lt. (jg) Kenneth Knoll, officer of the deck.

Both are charged with suffering the loss of U.S. military property through neglect and permitting the hazarding of Navy vessels. Capt. Shafer is also charged with dereliction of duty and violating Navy regulations.

Kreisky Goes to Iraq

KUWAIT, March 16 (Reuters)—Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky left here tonight for Baghdad on the second leg of a fact-finding mission on behalf of the Socialist International.

Mr. Kreisky, editor of a Washington-based newsletter, Science Trends, wrote this article for The Washington Post.

5 in Athens Press Given Sentences

ATHENS, March 16 (AP)—The directors of five Greek newspapers were sentenced to four months in prison each yesterday on charges of defying a ban on news reports about the Dec. 22 assassination of Richard Welch, who was the CIA station chief here.

The defendants filed an appeal and were freed pending its outcome. The five are the directors of the centrist dailies Vima and Athinai, the conservative dailies Arcturion and Athinimeri and a centrist Sunday paper, Eleftherotypia.

A public prosecutor's ban on further coverage of the Welch affair was imposed a week after he was slain by unidentified gunmen outside his home. The ban

Callaghan 5-4 At Bookmakers, With Healey 7-4

LONDON, March 16 (UPI)—British bookmakers today made Foreign Secretary James Callaghan the favorite to be elected Harold Wilson's successor by the Labor party.

The odds were put at 5-4 for Mr. Callaghan, 7-4 for Denis Healey, 5-1 for Home Secretary Roy Jenkins and 10-1 for Energy Secretary Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

On the Soviet space program, the CIA officials said:

- There are signs that a large Soviet installation built for man-made launches has been in motion for two or three years.
- It appears that three large boosters twice the size of U.S. Saturn-5 rockets have flown up the U.S. space shuttle.
- The Soviet space program is still active and may reach 84 years behind the U.S. program in the 1970s.
- The CIA officials indicated their belief that reliable satellite reconnaissance capabilities are essential to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks agreements.

CIA Estimate On A-Arms

(Continued from Page 1)

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July 1976

In Arms Buildup Expense

A SALT Failure Seen Costing U.S. \$11 Billion

By Norman Kempster

WASHINGTON, March 16.—If arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union break down, the consequence might be an increase of almost \$11 billion in U.S. defense spending over the next five years, according to a confidential congressional memorandum.

The Congressional Budget Office based its estimate on the cost of accelerating or expanding weapon programs on relatively short notice if the administration chose to do something "dramatic in order to demonstrate resolve."

On the other hand, the memo said, a new arms-limitation treaty would be unlikely to result in significant cuts in the Pentagon budget because most major weapons under development are intended to replace existing systems.

The memo on the fiscal impact of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks was prepared for the House of Representatives and Senate budget committees, which are drafting recommended spending bills for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

"Given the pace and scope of

Soviet strategic force development since SALT-I (the arms limitation agreement reached in 1972), it is difficult to visualize a further dramatic increase," the memo said.

It said most major Soviet arms programs already seem to be close to capacity.

But the memo said that if the talks break down, the United States could take several steps that would enhance its capacity to respond to a nuclear attack. It could:

• Keep open the Minuteman production line to increase the present 550 Minuteman-3 missiles to 800.

• Procure at least 100 warheads with a capacity to evade anti-ballistic missile systems for the Minuteman-3 force.

• Accelerate development of a new generation of ballistic missiles now on the drawing boards.

• Accelerate Cruise missile programs.

• Reopen the Safeguard anti-ballistic missile site that was closed earlier this year.

Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Ellsworth told reporters yesterday that if the SALT talks fail, it is clear the administration will have to ask for increased weapon spending. He cited no figure.

U.S. and Soviet arms negotiations have virtually abandoned hope of completing a SALT-II agreement in time for President Gerald Ford and Soviet Communist party leader Leonid Brezhnev to sign it this summer. But the talks are still under way.

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Hiring Practices Of U.S. Agency Are Investigated

WASHINGTON, March 16 (WP).—The 1974-75 political hiring practices of Action, the U.S. government's overseas and domestic voluntary agency, involved "possible criminal violations" that may be prosecuted, the Justice Department said yesterday.

The results of the investigation were forwarded to U.S. Attorney Earl Silbert, who said the matter of future prosecution was still "under discussion" between his office and the Justice Department.

Rep. John Moss and Rep. Augustus Hawkins, both California Democrats, released a letter yesterday in which they were informed of the possible prosecutions.

The congressmen had referred to the Justice Department a Civil Service Commission report late last year which said Action illegally screened candidates for their political desirability for high-level positions between 1971-74. The report also said evidence of political hiring was destroyed when investigations began.

Persons familiar with the Justice Department investigation said it has centered on the destruction of the documents.

Cornfeld Says He's Innocent In Phone Case

LOS ANGELES, March 16 (Reuters).—International financier Bernard Cornfeld pleaded not guilty in federal court here yesterday to charges of using electronic "beeper" boxes to avoid paying for long distance telephone calls.

He will go on trial April 27.

A federal grand jury indicted Mr. Cornfeld, 47, in June. It accused him of using the illegal device to place hundreds of calls to London, Geneva and other cities abroad.

Aides to Ford Express Doubt Callaway Will Resume Post

By Nicholas M. Horrock

WASHINGTON, March 16 (NYT).—Howard Callaway may not return to the helm of President Ford's election campaign, highly placed administration sources said yesterday.

According to a senior presidential adviser, the issue is not whether Mr. Callaway can disprove allegations of impropriety, but that the Ford campaign cannot "permit a sideshow on this matter" to develop that would deflect public attention from Mr. Ford and the issues of the campaign.

The adviser said his conclusion about Mr. Callaway's viability as campaign manager was "not meant to prejudice the issue of Callaway's guilt or innocence."

Another senior presidential adviser said that he had heard that the questions about Mr. Callaway and his Colorado ski resort might widen in the next few days.

Ski Resort
Mr. Callaway, according to a Department of Justice official, is now under investigation by the

Criminal Division of the department, which is seeking to determine if there was impropriety in his intermingling with Department of Agriculture officials on a matter concerning his ski resort.

The FBI and the Justice Department have launched a separate investigation, this official said, into an allegation published in a Colorado newspaper that an official of the Agriculture Department's National Forest Service and others had received a \$135,000 bribe from unnamed sources to take an action favorable to the Crested Butte Co., the ski concern controlled by Mr. Callaway.

The Justice Department will sift the evidence on another question, whether improper pressure was exerted by Mr. Callaway or anyone else to transfer three Forest Service employees.

Yesterday, Mr. Callaway retained Jerris Leonard, a Washington lawyer and a former assistant attorney general in the Nixon administration, to represent him.



HARD WORKER—Gov. George Wallace of Alabama greeted a passerby in Chicago while on his way to a campaign meeting. Mr. Wallace was the most active campaigner in the state before Illinois residents went to the polls yesterday in a presidential primary vote.

As Result of Overseas Disclosures

Bribes, Kickbacks Within U.S. Are Probed

By Michael C. Jensen

NEW YORK, March 16 (NYT).—Domestic bribes and kickbacks paid by one U.S. company to another, although long recognized as a serious problem, are coming under new scrutiny as a result of disclosures of similar payoffs overseas.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is currently investigating domestic payoffs in several industries, including breweries and construction companies. Part of the inquiry revolves around kickbacks to retailers by beer companies.

Some experts say domestic payoffs are far more widespread than had previously been acknowledged. Herbert Robinson, a New York lawyer who specializes in fraud cases, estimates, for example, that the amount of money secretly pocketed by U.S. businessmen through commercial bribery and kickbacks may be as high as \$15 billion a year, although he stresses that no one knows for sure.

Specialist in Field
Jules Kroil, a former New York assistant district attorney and president of a consulting concern that analyzes corporate purchasing practices, says that for every domestic kickback case reported by the news media or taken to court, an "infinite" number are handled without publicity or prosecution of the companies involved.

"I think," said a Midwest manufacturer of construction equipment, "that almost every illegal or immoral approach found anywhere in the world can be found in this country."

Interviews with businessmen, lawyers, investigators and accountants indicated that domestic kickbacks took place in a wide range of industries, including apparel, printing, freight hauling, advertising, retailing and credit. Most of those interviewed emphasized that they believed that the majority of U.S. businessmen involved in buying and selling were honest.

Buyers Often Involved
Court records and reports indicated that commercial bribes occurred most often at the buyer level, but occasionally involved higher officials of the companies concerned.

Mr. Robinson, the lawyer whose estimate of \$15 billion in commercial bribes far exceeds an admitted conservative, two-year-old estimate by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, said annual takeoffs received by individual businessmen ranged from a few hundred dollars to as much as \$100,000.

A large number of payoffs, he added, were in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Mr. Robinson said he knew, through his legal work of several thousand instances each year of payoffs between U.S. companies. He said that during examinations of records in a number of cases, he had found evidence that a manufacturer paid off dozens of customers besides the one being investigated.

"Most of them [instances of in-

dividuals receiving kickbacks] weren't even known to their corporate management," he said. Furthermore, he added, even when kickbacks or payoffs came to the attention of management, they often were not prosecuted. Typically, such companies seek restitution and quietly dismiss the employee.

Evidence that domestic bribes and kickbacks involve some of the largest U.S. corporations is provided by recent court cases implicating officials or employees of such companies as Sears, Roebuck and the Zenith Radio Corp.

As Honest as Doctors
Despite the enormous amount of money that changes hands through payoffs, few experts quarreled with the position of Frank Winters, executive vice-president of the National Association of Purchasing Management, who said that purchasing agents were as honest and professional as doctors and lawyers.

In part, Mr. Winters said, the "dishonest atmosphere" in which buying takes place at many companies has fostered "probit and integrity."

Still, the payoffs that occurred, court records indicate, often were paid to buyers at large or medium-size corporations who were bribed by manufacturers' representatives of large companies, or by executives from smaller companies, that acted as their suppliers. Company officials found guilty in recent years of wheeling and dealing in the United States have employed a variety of schemes to outperform their competitors and sell their products. In many cases they have found willing recipients for their payoffs.

Secret Bank Accounts
The practices have ranged from such ploys as contributing to a customer's favorite charity, to the deposit of thousands of dollars in a secret bank account or into a phony consulting company set up to receive kickbacks.

In a perhaps typical case, four executives of the Brunswick Rec-

ord Corp., a New Jersey recording company, were convicted two weeks ago of fraud in the payment of bribes to radio station personnel to play their company's records.

In another case of commercial bribery, a federal grand jury in Illinois last year alleged that George Anton, a buyer of bicycle accessories for Sears, Roebuck, took thousands of dollars in kickbacks from an importer of bicycle speedometers. Anton pleaded guilty in the case and was sentenced to two years in prison.

Another recent case involved nearly \$500,000 in kickbacks allegedly paid by subcontractors of the Grumman Corp. Nine Grumman employees were dismissed in the aftermath. The U.S. attorney's office in Brooklyn subsequently charged that there had been a "pattern of pervasive corruption" at Grumman.

A Grumman spokesman pointed out that the company itself "blew the whistle" on the scheme and cooperated with law enforcement officials.

Some Proper Dealings
Clearly, not all personal and extra-contractual dealings between purchasing executives and suppliers are improper, or even suspect. Purchaser-incentive programs are a long-established part of doing business in the United States.

There are areas that purchasing agents find troublesome, however. For example, Milgray Electronics, which sells Texas Instruments products, recently ran a full-page advertisement in Electronic Buyers' News, a trade publication, in which gifts to buyers were offered.

An order of \$2,500 of Texas Instruments products earned a buyer a free electronic television game called Odyssey, with a retail value of \$89.50. An order of \$500 or more was good for "a certificate for free gasoline." Such offers are not uncommon, particularly in the electronics distribution field.

Herbert Davidson, president of Milgray Electronics, defended the ad. "It's a legitimate part of our advertising budget," he said. "We don't raise the price of the product to the buyer and we advertise openly in trade publications. There's no suggestion of a covert deal."

Still, the National Association of Purchasing Management said it had received a number of complaints from its members about ads of this type, some of them quite strong.

Prosecution at Hearst Trial Ends Evidence Presentation

By Wallace Turner

SAN FRANCISCO, March 16 (NYT).—Patricia Hearst was "a rebel in search of a cause" and "was ripe for the plucking" by the group that she helped to rob a bank, a psychiatrist testified yesterday as the government closed its presentation of evidence against her.

Final defense evidence will be presented next in support of Miss Hearst's claim that she was coerced into helping the Symbionese Liberation Army rob the Sunbelt branch of the Elmer's Bank on April 15, 1974.

The government psychiatrist witness yesterday was Dr. Harry Kozol, director of the Center for Diagnostic and Treatment of Criminally Dangerous Sex Offenders at Bridgewater, Mass.

He said that considering her state of mind at the time of the kidnapping, Feb. 4, 1974, it was "unfortunate that of all the movements she could have become involved with" such as revolutionary feminism, she was abducted by a group of revolutionaries bent on violence "which echoed what was in her."

Four Days Before
Dr. Kozol, who visited Miss Hearst in jail five times in the several months he studied the case, said that, among other things, Miss Hearst told him that for four days before the night of her kidnapping she had been gripped by the premonitory fear of being abducted.

He described Miss Hearst's account of her fear as being "overwhelming, all-encompassing fear she was going to be abducted." He said he had tried to tell her that for a rich young woman, such as herself, this was not unusual because such a threat constantly hangs over such persons.

"It wasn't anything of that sort, she told me," Dr. Kozol related. "It stayed with her for four solid days. She couldn't shake it. She thought of running home to her parents where she would be safe, but she stayed and was kidnapped."

The premonition had not been

mentioned in the Hearst trial before. But even as Miss Hearst was abducted, police and sheriff's investigators in Oakland and Alameda County had in their possession a list of persons who they thought might be targets of the Symbionese Liberation Army, the group that kidnapped Miss Hearst. Some of the industrialists and business executives on that list were warned but, for some reason, Miss Hearst, whose name was also listed, was not.

Armed Robbery
Miss Hearst is charged with armed robbery of the bank on April 15, 1974, in company with other members of the SLA.

"She entered the bank voluntarily in order to participate voluntarily in the robbery of the bank," Dr. Kozol said. "It was an act of her own free will."

Psychiatrists testifying for the defense have said the newspaper heiress was the victim of a behavior-shaping plan that they variously called "coercive persuasion" and "brainwashing." This plan, they said, so instilled fear in her that she went along with the robbery to save her life.

"I think that she had joined these people who had captured her," Dr. Kozol said.

Miss Hearst came back to court yesterday looking more wan than she has since her trial began on Jan. 26. The proceedings were in recess Thursday and Friday because she had developed a fever from a respiratory infection.

Iran Warns of Break In Relations With Cuba

TEHRAN, March 16 (UPI).—Iran has threatened to break diplomatic relations with Cuba over an alleged meeting between Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and exiled Iranian Communist leader Iraj Eskandari, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

A report to the clandestine anti-government radio Palyk-Iran said Mr. Castro and the leader of the now defunct Iranian party met during the recent 25th Communist party congress in Moscow, where Mr. Eskandari is living in exile. The spokesman said the government was investigating the accuracy of the broadcast.

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Bonn Won't Let An East German Delegation Fly In

BONN, March 16 (AP).—Relations between West and East Germany took another knock today when the Bonn government refused landing permission for a plane scheduled to fly an East German delegation to a Communist party congress here.

The announcement came the day after the East Berlin regime elicited a sharp protest from Bonn by withholding accreditation to the Leipzig International Spring Trade Fair for three West German radio reporters.

The East Germans accused Deutschlandfunk and Deutsche Welle, the two radio stations employing the journalists, of constantly interfering in the internal affairs of Communist states.

West German Economics Minister Hans Friderichs demonstrated his protest by visiting the Leipzig fair yesterday after postponing the East German action.

A spokesman said today that the Bonn government had decided even before the Leipzig incident to reject a landing application by East Germany's permanent mission in Bonn.

Park Asked to Free Opponent in S. Korea

SEOUL, March 16 (AP).—Mrs. Kim Dae Jung, wife of the former opposition presidential candidate, has appealed to President Chung Hee Park for the release of her husband, who she said was suffering from serious neuralgia and arthritis.

Mr. Kim, 50, who unsuccessfully tried to unseat Mr. Park in the 1971 elections, was among 11 political and Christian leaders arrested in connection with a March 1 statement demanding Mr. Park's resignation and the restoration of full democracy.

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Cabinet Resignation Rumors Stir Spain in Unrest's Wake

Tito Courts Crack Down On Dissidents

By Henry Gimiger

MADRID, March 16 (NYT)—Dissension within the government and hostile pressures from without created a flood of reports yesterday of an impending crisis here in a Cabinet that is barely three months old.

The first government of the new Spanish monarchy, organized to carry out a political reform program and to confront an economic depression, is in difficulties on both counts after being hit by the strongest wave of social unrest in 40 years.

Reports of resignation concerned Premier Carlos Arias Navarro, who exercised no visible leadership during the labor disorders of the past two weeks, the entire Cabinet or individual ministers.

The likeliest resignation was thought to be that of Juan Miguel Villar Mir, deputy premier in charge of economic affairs and minister of finance, who has been unable to get an economic recovery program going after the recent devaluation of the peseta and who is the most frequent target of criticism by labor groups and economists.

A program that seeks to stimulate investment and hold down inflation is in parliament for urgent action, but a vote count yesterday revealed that it was in danger of defeat by increasingly independent-minded and rebellious deputies. This would be the biggest blow yet to the prestige of Mr. Villar Mir, who has been under constant fire since he made a speech last December in which he blamed wage-earners for inflation and recommended holding down wage rises.

The speech is being blamed for contributing to the nationwide strike wave in January, which is now receding partly because of sheer exhaustion of the strikers. Tension has been eased in Vitoria, the scene almost two weeks ago of clashes that resulted in four deaths and scores of injured.

Vitoria Workers Return

MADRID, March 16 (UPI)—After 70 days on strike, the 2,100 workers at the Mercedes truck factory in Vitoria returned to work today. But they said they would refuse to work overtime until two Vitoria labor leaders were released from prison, where they are being held on charges of sedition.

One of them, Jesus Fernandez Naves, is a Mercedes employee. Worker sources said the plant is known as a breeding ground for local labor leaders.

By late morning only three small plants in Vitoria were shut because of strikes. There were still thousands of workers on strike in scattered parts of the country, but the national radio of Spain described the labor situation as "almost normal."

Cyprus Arrests

Foe of Makarios

NICOSIA, March 16 (UPI)—Nicos Sampson, who was president of Cyprus for eight days during the anti-Makarios coup of July, 1974, was arrested today, the police announced.

Mr. Sampson, 40, was charged in court on two counts—taking part in the military coup against President Makarios and illegally assuming the post and duties of president.

Pro-Soviet Defendants Get Stiff Sentences

BELGRADE, March 16 (UPI)—A district court today handed down unusually stiff sentences to 10 pro-Soviet Yugoslav dissidents and jailed them for terms ranging from 18 months to 15 years for plotting against the Communist regime.

The court in Novi Sad, 50 miles north of the capital, gave three of the defendants the maximum sentence for "association against the people and state." Maximum sentences are rare.

This was the second group of pro-Moscow Stalinists convicted since the arrest of about 40 Communist Party members last year. They were among 200 persons arrested during the same period for a variety of political crimes.

Djuro Sargin, 63, and Djordje Bilecki, 60, received 15 years in jail each and the court also ordered their property confiscated. Velimir Morica, 46, was given a similar jail term.

Illegal Group

The Novi Sad court said the 10, of whom seven already had been convicted on similar charges, formed an illegal group with the aim of forcibly overthrowing the regime of President Tito with outside support.

Yugoslavia has complained to the Soviet Union about supporting the Communists.

The Communists disagree with President Tito's 1948 break with Moscow and oppose his more liberal brand of Communism and his independent line.

In another case, the district court in Sarajevo sentenced Pero Tadić to 11 years in prison for anti-state activities as a member of the rightist Ustaši exile movement in West Germany.

The Ustaši are extreme Croatian nationalists who ran Croatia as a puppet state for the Nazis during World War II. After the war they fled Yugoslavia and continued their anti-Tito activities, including alleged bombings of Yugoslav missions and killing of Yugoslav officials in Western countries.

In a third trial, the same court sentenced a lawyer and craftsman to eight years and five years, eight months in jail, respectively, for hostile propaganda aimed at overthrowing the Tito regime.

Paris Embassy Protest

PARIS, March 16 (Reuters)—Police today detained 46 Chad students who occupied their country's embassy here for two hours in a protest against alleged repression in the West African republic. No damage was reported.



GRILLE-GRAFT—The well known nose of a well known German car whose models run to some of the poshest has been put on the micro-model of another well known manufacturer with this result as seen recently in Mannheim.

Obituaries

Jo Mielziner, 74, a Leading American Theater Designer

NEW YORK, March 16 (NYT)—Jo Mielziner, the pioneering designer who created the settings and often the lighting for more than 275 dramas, musical comedies, operas and ballets, suffered a heart attack in a taxi cab yesterday and was pronounced dead on arrival at Roosevelt Hospital. He would have been 75 on Friday.

The designer could, with seeming ease, brighten up a stage and make it look like so much cotton candy, as he did with "Guys and Dolls," or turn a stage into a verdant tropical island, as he did for "South Pacific."

But he also did the mordantly moody setting for "Death of a Salesman" and the semirealist design for "A Streetcar Named Desire." His designs won five Antoinette Perry (Tony) Awards, five Donaldson Awards, and an Academy Award for his color art direction for the movie "Picnic."

He first caught the public's eye in 1924 with his sets for "The

Guardman," and was praised for his sweeping canvas of people under the Brooklyn Bridge, used as the backdrop for Maxwell Anderson's "Winterset."

Among musicals for which he provided the sets were "The Boys From Syracuse," "Pal Joey," "Carousel," "Annie Get Your Gun," "The King and I," "Can-Can," "The Most Happy Fella," and "Gypsy." At his death he was working on designs for David Merrick's musical version of the French film "The Baker's Wife."

Designs for Dramas

He designed the settings for such dramas as Eugene O'Neill's "Strange Interlude," Elmer Rice's "Street Scene," and Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," "Summer and Smoke" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Mr. Mielziner's urge to design for the stage emanated from his early training as a painter. His father, Leo Mielziner, was a portrait painter, and his mother was a writer. Although his parents were Americans, he was born in Paris in 1901 and spent several years there. At the age of 15 he left high school in New York to accept a scholarship to study painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

In 1923 he was employed as an assistant stage manager and his actor by the Theater Guild in New York. He was an assistant to the great scenic designer of that period, Robert Edmond Jones, and to the guild's designer, Lee Simonson.

Mr. Mielziner was also active in the design of theaters and as a design and lighting consultant to architectural firms. He designed the theater in the White House in 1964, and was a co-designer of many others.

Baron Albert Lilar

ANTWERP, Belgium, March 16 (UPI)—Baron Albert Lilar, 75, a former senator and justice minister, died last night, the family announced today. A Liberal senator from 1946 to 1974, he was four times minister of justice and was a vice-premier from 1956 to 1960.

He was a specialist in international and maritime law and has been chairman of the permanent committee of the Diplomatic Conference on Maritime Law. Earlier this month he was given the title of baron by King Baudouin.

The newspaper criticized persons who were trying to spread fears of such a threat, which it said, "was incompatible with the spirit of the times."

Named was Adm. Isaac Kidd, supreme allied commander in the Atlantic, and Gen. Jacques Dextre, chief of the general staff of Canada, who, Pravda said, "have joined actively in the chorus of opponents of the relaxation of tension."

The NATO naval exercises follow by a month Soviet land exercises in the Caucasus.

Italy Party Fires Leader Named in Lockheed Scandal

FLORENCE, March 16 (Reuters)—Italy's Social Democratic party today ousted its secretary, Mario Tanassi, in a vote of no confidence at the end of a five-day congress here.

Mr. Tanassi, named in the Lockheed bribery scandal, had come under increasing pressure from inside his own party.

Critics said the party's image has been tarnished by the repeated mention of Mr. Tanassi, in connection with the affair. He has subsequently denied receiving any bribes.

He is also charged with taking his party too far to the right, thus losing votes to the left. The Social Democrats have 5 per cent of the national vote, making it Italy's fifth biggest party.

The party's leadership now rests with the chairman, Giuseppe Saragat, 77.

Brazil Bus Plunge Kills 11

RECIFE, Brazil, March 16 (AP)—Eleven passengers were killed and 20 were injured when a bus plunged from a cliff into a reservoir 150 miles from here, it was reported.

Chile Junta Tries, but Fails To Better Poor Rights Im

By Jonathan Kandell

SANTIAGO, March 16 (NYT)—Two-and-a-half years after taking power, the rightist military junta that governs Chile is still grappling unsuccessfully with its poor image on human rights in the country and abroad.

In the aftermath of the 1973 coup that brought down the Marxist government of the late Salvador Allende, more than 45,000 people passed through at least temporary detention, according to the junta. Church sources believe that detainees were twice that figure, or about 1 per cent of the total population.

There are still some 3,900 political prisoners. The authorities disclaim any knowledge of the fate of more than 1,900 other detainees, which leads church sources and human-rights lawyers to believe that many of the missing persons have died in prison.

Political parties remain active but are suspended. Opposition newspapers do not exist, and the remaining publications are either fervent government supporters or self-censored. Labor unions have been reduced to paper organizations with no rights to bargain or strike. Purges, which had previously swept out Marxists from universities and government posts, are now being directed against moderate non-Marxists.

Fewer Arrests

But in an attempt to improve the most controversial aspects of its human-rights image, the junta has sharply reduced the number of arrests in recent months. Detention centers have been opened to sporadic, well-publicized visits by pro-junta Justice Ministry and Supreme Court officials, who have declared themselves satisfied with the facilities.

The government has also recently passed a series of decrees which, if implemented, would considerably reduce the charges of brutality made against the intelligence services.

The measures specify that only three detention camps would be legally recognized, that security officers must identify themselves during the course of an arrest and produce a warrant detailing charges, that the closest relatives of the detainee must be advised of the arrest within 48 hours, that the prisoner will be released within five days of his detention or turned over to a court of law.

Kremlin Removes Its Farm Minister

MOSCOW, March 16 (AP)—Dmitri Polyanskiy, who last year presided over the Soviet Union's court-martialed. Fourteen recent prison terms ranging from years to eight months.

Gen. Ioannidis and Col. Poulas were not court-martialed because they retired from the army before the coup. A "Second Slavery" was imposed on the people.

The public prosecutor, Nicos Ganssios, said: "These men are not satisfied with their arrest during the seven-year dictatorship. They tried to deprive the country of the wind of democracy which blew over the door of their regime. They tried to impose a second slavery on people."

Gen. Ioannidis relinquished power in July, 1974, following Turkish invasion of Cyprus, coup against Archbishop Makarios, the Greek-officer-led riot, setting on Gen. Ioannidis' orders was used as a pretext for the invasion.

Gen. Ioannidis is already serving seven life sentences for part in the April 1967 coup, the incidents at Athens T. nical University in 1973, more than 250 persons were killed in the suppression of a student rebellion by the army.

Scientists Use Earth, Moon To Check on Galileo, Einstein

By Walter Sullivan

NEW YORK, March 16 (NYT)—A counterpart of the experiment whereby Galileo showed that objects of different weight fall at essentially the same speed has been conducted, using objects of considerably greater mass—the earth and moon—to attack the problem from a new angle.

The purpose has been to explore the possibility, suggested by some theorists, that the so-called equivalence principle, forming the basis of Einstein's general theory of relativity, is only partly valid.

The experiment consisted of aiming laser pulses three-billionths of a second long at laser reflectors left at three sites on the moon by Apollo astronauts and measuring their round-trip travel times. In this way, changes in earth-moon distances could be tracked to within five inches.

Two independent analyses of the 1,389 measurements made in this manner have provided similar findings: That no departure from Einstein's relativity could be recorded within the limits of measurement. The laser pulses were transmitted through a telescope of the McDonald Observatory of the University of Texas. The findings are presented in yesterday's issue of Physical Review Letters.

Proposal at Issue

At issue is a proposal of one participant in the experiments, Dr. Robert Dicke of Princeton University, that the equivalence principle, one aspect of which was tested by Galileo in the 16th century, might not be entirely valid.

Galileo showed that all bodies respond similarly to gravity, regardless of their size and composition. Einstein based his theory on the related assumption that the mass responsible for an object's inertia is equivalent to the mass responsible for its gravity that it generates.

Put another way, the force of gravity and the force required to overcome inertia are indistinguishable. No experiment inside a spacecraft can determine whether its occupants are held to the floor by gravity tresting

on the launching pad) or inertial acceleration (far out in space).

In 1961, however, Dr. Dicke proposed that one aspect of objects' gravity—their "binding" energy that makes them what they are—might be affected by gravity external origin. For example, the gravitational binding energy of the earth would be influenced by the sun's gravity.

This would mean that relationship between a box and its gravity would always be uniform. In 1968, Kenneth Nordtved of Montana State University proposed ways to test such departures from equivalence.

One consisted of careful monitoring of the moon's motion. The effect proposed by Dr. Dicke was noted, would alter the earth's gravity mass than that of the moon. The moon's motion about the earth under control of earth's gravity would deviate from conventional predictions by much as three feet.

The laser measurements were sufficiently accurate to show that within a margin of error of few inches such deviation is not observed.

Dr. Dicke said yesterday, however, that he was troubled by the elaborate corrections needed to obtain these results. They took into account the twice-daily rise and fall of the land in Texas caused by tidal effects of the sun and moon. They also involved corrections for the amount of air overhead during each measurement, indicated by local barometric pressure.

While faith in the equivalence principle seems to predominate among physicists, they are far from agreed on the cause. "What they ask is the source of the force that governs everything in the universe from a golf ball to a galaxy, resist efforts to accelerate it?"

Some believe it is an effect exerted by the combined mass of all objects in the universe, but no test has yet been devised to test the hypothesis.

Gen. Ioannidis

ATHENS, March 16 (UPI)—A criminal court today found former Greek strongman, Gen. Ioannidis, guilty of complicity in an anti-governor plot last year and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

Former Col. Dimitrios Poulas was sentenced to 10 years for associating with Gen. Ioannidis in the conspiracy of Greek officers against the government of Premier Constantine Karamanlis.

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MOVIES

Three Polish Fortune Hunters In 'Land of Great Promise'

By Thomas Quinn Curtiss

PARIS, March 16 (UPI).—"The Land of Great Promise" (at the Lincoln, the Gaumont and the Studio Raspail in Paris with French subtitles) is the third of a three-volume series of Wladyslaw Reys's two-volume novel about chimeras of a trio of upstart wheeler-dealers in 1900. Wajda appears to have followed the original to the letter, reproducing it in full. The story is a tale of the three hunters, some of the men in their lives and the money-making who are their get-rich-quick men. It has depth, and the turn-of-century town is graphically evoked, stressing the underdog social injustice and stark contrast between a prosperous family and a poor one.

Refuse to take her out to Sunday lunch because of her sudden show of stubbornness. Using her father's loudspeaker, she broadcasts to the courtyard that she is hungry and the father, hoist baskets of provisions to her window. There is the teen-aged boy who, smitten with the beautiful mother of one of his friends, presents the lady with flowers only to be told to thank his father for the floral tributes. And there is the school friend who turns out to be the victim of harsh maternal tyranny.

These are the film's high moments, but there is not a passage that has not its touch of fun or pathos. It is delightfully acted by the novice company of youngsters and all of it is delightfully done, Truffaut possessing the key to adolescent secrets and the talent to reveal them clearly and effectively without resort to cliché.

ENTERTAINMENT IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 16 (UPI).—This is how New York Times critics rate new films:

"Man Friday" brings together some good people, Peter O'Toole and Richard Roundtree, the stars, and Jack Gold the director, but unfortunately, this movie "brings out the worst in each of them," writes Vincent Canby. Based on Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," the screenplay was written by Adrian Mitchell "with a doppelgänger consciousness," says Canby. Friday, played by Roundtree, is a sort of exotic flower child while O'Toole as Crusoe has been turned into a Bible-quoting bigot. The movie, Canby continues, "seems to have been carefully aimed about two inches over the heads of an audience of 8-year-olds." O'Toole "looks and sounds right," says Canby, and might



Wojciech Pszoniak, left, Daniel Olbrychski and Andrej Seweryn in Wajda film.

of-war between art-striving Western and hard-core porno. The attractive Jane Birkin as the tomboy heroine is overexposed, while Joe Dallesandro, star of the Andy Warhol extravaganzas, acquits himself honorably as the brutal lover and Hugues Quester, a rising actor of the French stage, is his jealous sidekick.

"L'Acrobate" (at the Elyses, Lincoln, the Saint-Germain Village and the Cambonne) has been awarded the Grand Prix de la Critique as the most humorous film of 1976. We live, alas, in singularly unfunny times if this is what causes a jury of reviewers

to rock with laughter. Claude Mellet, who might be mistaken for an unflattering caricature of Buster Keaton, hops and skips about as a Turkish bath attendant who longs to be a tango dancer, a premise that might have served Keaton for a two-reeler, but which is here extended as the basis for a full-length and faltering feature.

"Xala" (at the Marbeuf, the Nockambules and the Jean Renoir) was written and directed by the Senegalese Ousmane Sembene, whose film, "Le Mandat" brought the black African cinema international recognition.

This new film, based on his novel, concerns a Dakar businessman who becomes impotent ("xala" is the Senegalese word signifying impotency) on the wedding night of his third marriage. This temporary failing is caused by the curse of a peasant he has cheated. For the restoration of his powers, he consults witch doctors and loses his fortune to these wizards. The downfall of the local tycoon is a springboard for comic satire in which the bondage traditionally imposed on women and the perverted exploitation of the poor are ridiculed. Technically immature, "Xala" has an ironic bite that lends it unusual verve.

have done better with a less pretentious script. But Roundtree "has a terrible time trying to mime a primitive man's saintliness."

"From Beyond the Grave" is a film in four episodes based on stories by R. Chetwynd-Hayes, linked together by the proprietor of an antique shop who hexes people trying to cheat him. Richard Eder calls the stories "crude and obvious." Blood is used as a poor compensation for darkness. However, a few distinguished British actors have been hired for some of the parts so "in spite of the blood, none of the episodes goes much below a certain harmless tedium," Eder says. The best, according to the critic, is "The Elemental," the reason being the late Margaret Leighton, who "has a hilarious

time wrestling the spirit" lodged in the left shoulder of Ian Carmichael. In "An Act of Kindness," Eder thought Ian Bannen had "some good moments," and Diana Dors was "also fine" as his wife. The other two, "The Gate Crasher" and "The Door," are "pure stodge," according to Eder.

"Vincent, François, Paul and the Others," a French film directed by Claude Sautet, is about three middle-class failures whose friendship sustains and reassures them. Vincent Canby calls Sautet a director who "regards the bourgeoisie with solemnity unrelieved by humor," and is as fascinated by the cut of their clothes as by the state of their emotional lives. But in the current film, Canby writes, he is "most successful at keeping

Happy Life of a Children's Author

By Richard Flaste

NEW YORK (UPI).—It is easy to imagine Richard Scarry working in his studio overlooking the cathedral in Lausanne. He is chuckling.

He's just decided on a name for one of the characters in his children's books, *Couscous*, the Algerian detective. Four-year-olds will miss the joke, but many of their parents will find it amusing.

And one reason Richard Scarry offers for his surprising success—he says 50 million of his books have been sold throughout the world—is his awareness of the parents who buy the books and who often have to read them out loud over and over again.

Charming Children

Meanwhile, he's charming the children with his animals that are cute (but not quite as cute as Disney's), which he finds "corny" and with his stories about work or words or numbers.

Although the people in his stories are always animals, the animals are always people. "When I draw an owl," Mr. Scarry said the other day on one of his visits to the United States, "and he wants to go somewhere, he doesn't fly; he has to go down to the airport and take a plane."

He thinks animals are more appealing to children than drawings of people, because there are no barriers to identifying with them; if a young reader has dark hair and sees a child with blond hair in a book, she might feel,

in Mr. Scarry's view, "that's not me." But as Mr. Scarry sees it, all children can identify with little rabbits, dogs or pigs.

The books have made Mr. Scarry a wealthy man. "Not yet quite a millionaire," he says with a laugh, "but I'm hoping."

3 Residences
Millionaire or not, he does have three European residences in addition to that studio in Lausanne. There's also an apartment in Lausanne, a rented villa at St. Jean Cap Ferrat on the Mediterranean in France and a chalet in Gstaad.

He lives a life, he says, that is more "freedom than discipline." And as the 56-year-old, square-jawed and gray-haired author tells it, it sounds like a life in which skiing is more important than walking.

Skiing was the reason he and his wife, Patricia, also a children's-book author, and their now 23-year-old son, Richard, moved to Switzerland from Connecticut eight years ago.

3 Residences
The road to magnificent skiing began for Mr. Scarry in 1946 when, as a commercial illustrator just out of the Army, he got his first children's book assignment, doing the illustrations for "The Boss of the Barnyard" for Golden Press.

He did odd drawings for children's books for 11 years, and then ran out of assignments and decided to do some writing, too. The result was "Tinker and Tanker," about a hippopotamus and a rabbit facing danger in Africa.

The next book, "Richard Scarry's Best Word Book Ever," which uses tens of illustrations on many of its pages, each illustration with its corresponding word, seems to identify everything children meet in their world and some things in exotic worlds. It has sold more than a million copies in 19 Golden Press printings.

And like many of the 140 books he has worked on, it carries the superlative in the title—others are the "Best Rainy Day Book Ever" (published by Random House, which has published a number of his more recent books), "Best Mother Goose Ever," "Best Storybook Ever" and so on.

Intuitive Approach
Although he has done a great deal of research for some books—up to two months of work before sitting down to write and draw—Mr. Scarry approaches his books almost intuitively.

He uses no set word list and does not try his ideas out on

children before submitting them. "When it's right," he said, "you just know."

He also says he has no age range in mind: "They say the books are for 2 to 10-year-olds, but 1-year-olds can look at the pictures."

Mr. Scarry has had his share of criticism along with the success. Some have charged that his pigs were sexist, so now he has female characters in some traditionally male roles (police officers, for instance). And there have been complaints about violence in his stories.

But he describes the violence as "practical." He says, "No one actually ever gets hurt. In all my books there's a certain gentleness."

Art Collection Goes On Sale in N.Y. Today

NEW YORK, March 16 (UPI).—A collection of French impressionist and modern paintings and sculptures put together by a survivor of the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camps will be sold here tomorrow with Picasso's "La Matrioska" as the prize lot.

The estate of the late Josef Rosenzweig is selling 65 items from the collection amassed by the New York realtor and his wife, Hadasah, after he came to the United States following World War II. The collection was little known, except to connoisseurs, although the Rosenzweigs occasionally loaned paintings to museum shows.

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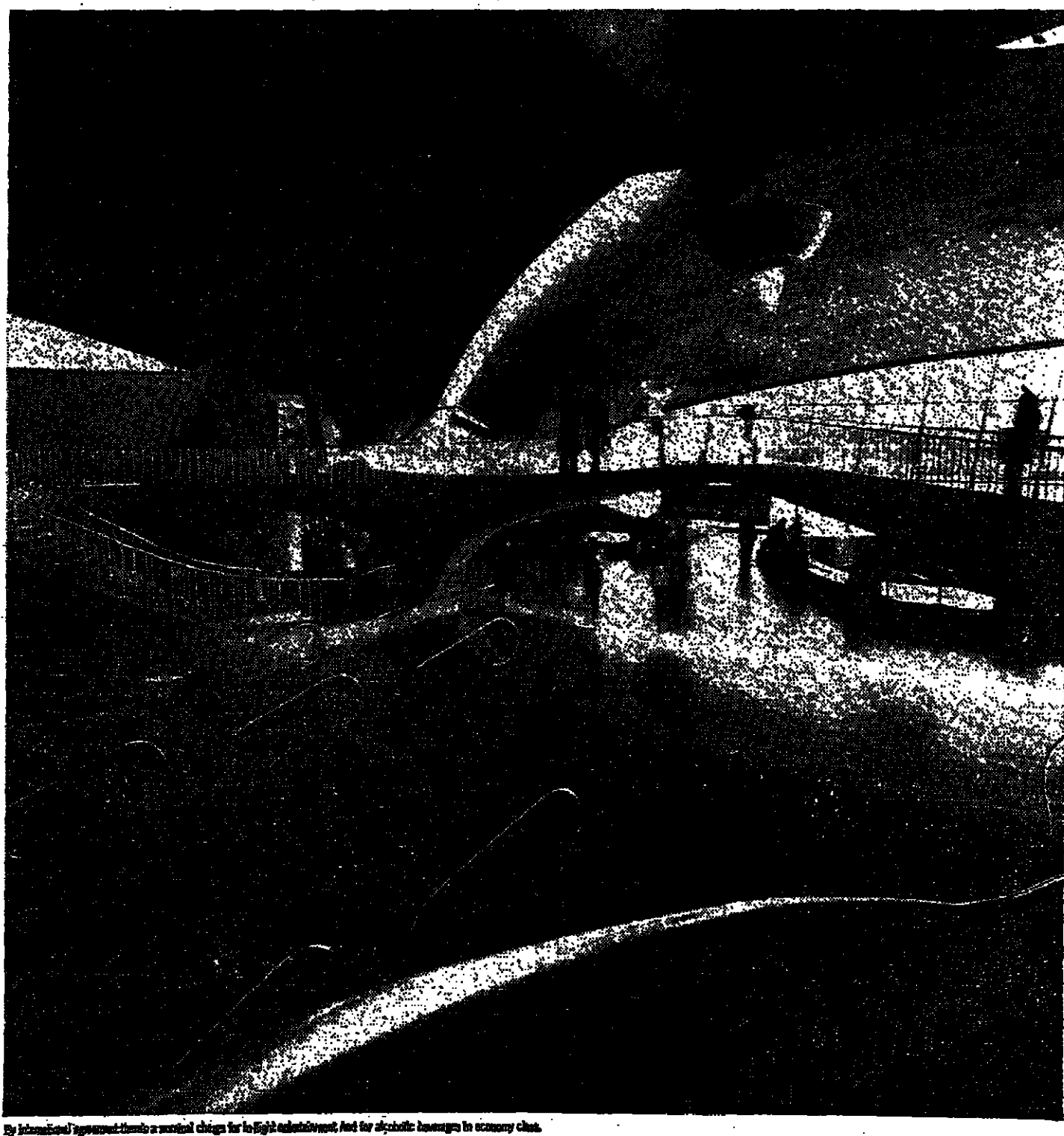
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Mr. Wilson Steps Down

Had Prime Minister Harold Wilson—after last Wednesday's defeat in Commons, no one would have had constitutional reason for surprise. Or had Mr. Wilson, in normal course, announced that at 60, after more than 10 years of the heavy responsibility of the government, he intended to leave that post, the action would have seemed natural enough. But for his resignation to follow so soon after his Cabinet's decision to rest on the laurels of a vote of confidence raises many questions.

Whoever succeeds him—and the selection promises to be a stormy process—will still confront harsh political facts. Some thirty-odd Labor members of the House bolted the government on a crucial issue relating to fiscal policy. That they returned to give their votes of confidence seemed quite clearly to say they wanted neither new elections nor the Wilson-Healey program. And this could be even more ominous evidence of stalemate than the divisions between Republican President Ford and the Democratic Congress—without the definite search for a mandate that is now under way in the United States election campaign.

But will the new situation created by Mr. Wilson's imminent departure as prime minister and leadership of the Labor party resolve the dilemmas? Harold Wilson is by no means a charismatic politician. But he has

been a good one, in that he juggled the conflicting elements within Labor very well and, in the end, had the courage to move to a new course of moderation when Britain's acute financial crisis demanded it. By stepping down at this particular juncture, however, he places a very heavy burden on the much divided party, and on whatever leadership it selects. It also places the time and conditions of a new appeal to the people in doubt.

This is not good for Britain nor for a Western Europe in which a sinking pound and a floating franc are symptoms of economic malaise and political uncertainty. Will Britain join Italy not only in economic distress but political unrest? Britain, to be sure, does have a Conservative party ready and eager to take office if the voters so decide, ready to form a government that would take direct responsibility for a course of action. But if there is a prolonged period of uncertainty before elections the effects could be gravely damaging.

Labor may prove that it can pull itself together and agree on policies and personnel for a continuation of its waning mandate. Or elections may come sooner than expected and a new mandate be won by either major party. But those Europeans who condemn the United States for its own uncertainties at this time would do well to take a closer look at their own.

Leftward in France

The triennial cantonal elections in France for virtually powerless local bodies normally have little significance. The political future of France will be determined by the parliamentary elections of 1978 and the presidential voting of 1981, both a long way off. Yet the left swing in this year's cantonals has a special meaning.

These first nationwide elections since the rise to the presidency of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing two years ago have seen the parties of the left capture a majority not only in the popular vote but—for the first time in the Gaullist Fifth Republic—a majority of the seats in the local councils. The left bloc that won the election represents a nationwide alliance of Communists and Socialists, cemented together by political necessity that came within 1 per cent of victory in the last presidential election and is likely to hold together until the next.

The big question in the interim is whether the left could translate a popular majority in 1978, if it should win one, into a majority of the seats in parliament—a much more difficult task, given the French electoral system. Last Sunday's results make that outcome more likely than had seemed possible. It could mean Communist accession to power through a left coalition cabinet.

As usual in French runoff elections, the left alliance last Sunday saw more Communist votes for Socialists who came out ahead in the first round than the reverse. And there were the usual recriminations by Communist leaders. But the degree of left bloc coherence was more important than the disputes. A coherence increased by the So-

cialist emergence as the bigger party, with 26.5 per cent of the vote compared with 23 per cent for the Communists.

Within the government coalition, Giscard d'Estaing's Independent Republicans made further gains, confirming their position as a larger party than the fading Gaullist party, which again lost ground. But the charisma of France's new President, the reforms he has instituted and the more progressive measures he has proposed this year—including a capital gains tax and a form of worker-management co-determination—have failed to win him the kind of electoral dominance that General de Gaulle achieved for a time.

Meanwhile, worldwide recessions, inflation and the fivefold rise in the price of imported oil have hampered efforts to pull France out of its deepest depression and highest unemployment levels since the 1930s. Two years of deflationary policies cut the inflation rate below 10 per cent and put France's external payments into balance. But the first efforts at recovery, initiated last year, have sent the inflation rate up again and thrown the balance of payments toward deficit, contributing to the weakening of the franc that now has forced a new devaluation.

With unemployment and inflation the chief factors in Sunday's left electoral shift, the difficulty in achieving recovery in France without a sharp upswing worldwide—and particularly in the predominant American and West German economies—is a warning of political dangers yet to come.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Blood in Nigeria

Public execution by firing squad of 30 Nigerian Army officers and one civilian for alleged involvement in an abortive coup last month is the act of frightened military rulers, unsure of their support either in the armed forces or the country as a whole. The macabre exhibition on a beach near Lagos furnishes the most striking contrast imaginable to the magnanimous treatment of the military and civilian leaders of secessionist Biafra by Gen. Yakubu Gowon at the end of Nigeria's civil war in 1970.

For the existing Lagos regime it is no answer to say that people must be taught not to overthrow government, even if it were clear—which it is not—that executions are effective deterrents. The fact is that Gen. Murtala Mohammed, the chief of state who was murdered in the February coup, and his successor, Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, came to power themselves by overthrowing General Gowon's government last July.

The trials of the accused were conducted in secret by a military tribunal, so there

is no basis for judging the so-called "confessions," reported by Lagos radio, or the allegations that General Gowon, now studying politics at a British university, was implicated in the plot. General Gowon has denied any involvement and it is inconceivable, given the present climate in Lagos, that Britain would agree to his extradition.

Whatever the case against him—and the truth may never be known—it is a matter for widespread regret that one of those executed was Maj. Gen. I. D. Bissala, former defense minister. As commander in the former Biafran heartland after the civil war, General Bissala did perhaps more than any individual except General Gowon himself to enforce a policy of reconciliation and reintegration for the secessionists. Nigeria can ill afford the loss of such a talent. His execution and that of so many others is not likely to increase confidence in the present military rulers of Africa's biggest and richest country.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In the International Edition

Seventy-Five Years Ago

March 17, 1901

NEW YORK.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie seems to be in no great danger of dying disgraced. The gifts that he has made within the last 30 days now aggregate nearly \$12,000,000. To his splendid offer to donate 65 libraries to New York City at a cost of \$80,000 each, is now added the announcement of a \$1,000,000 library for St. Louis and a \$25,000 library for New Rochelle, N.Y.

Fifty Years Ago

March 17, 1926

WASHINGTON.—Postmaster-General New has announced another step to place the North-west in speedy mail communication with the Eastern Seaboard. A new airmail service will commence operation on April 6 from Elko, Nev., via Boise, Idaho, to Pasco, Wash., and return. With the installation of this route, mail from New York City will now reach the extreme western section of the United States in approximately 30 hours.



Paying the Price of Empire

By C. L. Sulzberger

LISBON.—Portugal is paying a steep price for the numerous, able-bodied men of the world's very last great overseas empire. This position, imposed by a myopic dictatorship that was only overthrown two years ago, is at the root of every major problem here today.

Public health, literacy, employment, investment, infiltration, production remain at dreadful levels. And things are going badly between Lisbon and its former colonies, although some Cabinet ministers connected with such affairs like to gild the stunk cabbage. As Mario Soares, head of the Socialist party (this nation's largest), realistically says:

"Totalitarian regimes have been installed there (the ex-colonies) and they are close to the Soviet bloc. The West is paying for its stupidity in not helping movements for independence from the Salazar (Portugal's dictator) regime." Jose Medeiros Ferreira, secretary of state for foreign affairs, adds: "We expect to play a difficult role vis-a-vis our former possessions during the next few years."

There is no escaping the U.S. share in the blame. The U.S. National Security Council decided six years ago to support Portuguese administration in Angola and Mozambique in order to avoid "chaos and increased opportunities for the Communists." This policy produced precisely what it sought to avoid.

Nationalist movements in Portuguese Africa infected the forces sent to restrain them with their own ideology and methodology. These inspired a revolution in Lisbon plus both chaos and near-Communism. African regimes were created that are anti-Western (above all anti-U.S.) and even trked with sympathizers here.

Dispossession

Adm. Victor Crespo, minister of cooperation (a job once called colonial minister), assured me less than 100 Portuguese are now jailed in Mozambique. The figure is probably six times as large. And residents of that former colony—including those in "re-education camps" or prison—don't show up at homes or offices within 90 days are automatically dispossessed.

The bitter feelings brought to Lisbon by an airlifted 400,000 Angolan refugees have been further soured by events in Mozambique. This stirs an anger that has considerable political importance here. Thirty per cent of the new voters enrolled for next month's legislative elections are homeless emigrants from Africa who are also mostly jobless.

Maybe in time these people will prove to be of long-term benefit to Portugal because they represent much talent, energy and enterprise. But right now, despite an impressive national effort to care for them, house them temporarily and resettle them, they are unhappy, resentful and potentially dangerous.

Many Portuguese are far from convinced that it was wise for Lisbon to ignore its own pledge (the Alvor agreement) to the three competing Angolan nationalist movements by recognizing the MPLA government. People here with Angolan experience say MPLA isn't capable of imposing itself on the entire country, even with Soviet and Cuban support.

With an election in the offing, the decision to recognize was avoided for a while because of

differing internal reasons: (1) to court the anti-MPLA refugees; (2) to reaffirm last year's Alvor accord; (3) to avoid irritating the West. But these were all forgotten when Western capitalists, led by Paris, rushed to acknowledge MPLA's regime while certain Lisbon provisional government leaders (now far left of a changing public opinion) urged recognition.

Only Party?

Many disagree with Crespo's belief that MPLA is the "only party" capable of governing Angola. Yet a kind of political coup d'etat was engineered here to support that view. Adm. Rosa Corinho, a former member of the National Revolutionary Council in Lisbon (once the Portuguese revolution's high commissioner in Angola), has just returned there for reasons nobody can explain.

Corinho no longer holds an official position. He is accused of supporting the rebels to overthrow the government.

Letters

South African View

South Africa and Rhodesia should not yield to pressure from outside agencies to adopt the principle of "one-man, one-vote." This method of government appointment is nonexistent in Africa. None of the members of the OAU are in power by this system, although they advocate other countries using it. Even majority rule is a farce. The OAU recognizes the MPLA as the ruling government in Angola but it does not receive more than 20 per cent of the support of the local people. African leaders are past masters of double standards. This practice may satisfy the local followers but is absurd in the eyes of rational people.

The blacks' greatest fear is the blacks themselves. Their inability to control political power for the good of the masses and tribalism are the greatest obstacles to overcome before they can call for unity.

The colonialists have, for centuries, pioneered the natural resources of Africa, their ingenuity has not only benefited the world in general but increased the standard of living amongst the local populations. This is evident in both South Africa and Rhodesia, where the opportunity for the individual is greater than in any other part of the continent.

Law and order, employment, food, health services and transport are surely a higher preference to a family than its head receiving a vote. Southern Africa is being threatened by an insanity created by outside agitators that have nothing to lose by national and international instability.

South Africa and Rhodesia have the military might and the ability to use it in order to maintain law and order for the security of all the local people's progress. Sooner or later South Africa and Rhodesia will have to call the military bluff for they should realize that the victory, with or without the aid of the Communists, is only a fanatical dream who would have their own people senselessly killed for a cause they do not know.

The world should look at history and note the loss of prosperity and progress to all the people of Africa affected by constant coups and internal violence. Productivity on the continent of

By some observers of having helped engineer a Lisbon-MPLA-Havana coup favoring MPLA, while he was still on the Revolutionary Council, Crespo says there is no confirmable evidence of this.

The obvious ultimate solution for Portugal is to join the European Economic Community, to which all dispossessed former overseas imperial powers belong: Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, Holland. They have discovered they can effectively pool their energies in that common enterprise and at the same time can encourage continued links between industrialized Europe and developing Africa.

However, Portuguese Africa, with its long-delayed freedom and currently pro-Marxist bias, is far from playing any role in such a Eurasian combination. And so is Portugal itself, with its antiquated economy and still-provisional government unable to undertake long-range obligations.

Manhattan Transfer

Kudos to Jan Eby for his article (Herald Tribune, March 12) on the "Deal of the [17th] Century" which led to Dutch and Belgian development of New York. The "deal" he talks of is the Dutch paying "the Manhattan Indians all of 60 dollars (\$24) for their island real estate—might even be described as the "double-dealing of the century," according to the New York City Police Department.

A department manual says the deal showed that, from the moment the first Europeans landed on Manhattan Island, the good burghers there have needed police protection—for the Indians that sold the Dutch the island were not from Manhattan at all, but were there on a fishing trip from their tribal lands in what is now Flatbush, Brooklyn.

The Manhattan Indians got no benefit. The first deal, the first swindle, establishing a Manhattan way of life.

HENRI VICTOR
Versailles, France

One-Way Détente

Re the letter by Jacob Izakovich Rehn "View from Moscow" (Herald Tribune, March 2). One may wonder how come Mr. Rehn "learned by chance" about the Brussels World Conference on Soviet Jewry which was played up by Soviet media to an extent only rivaled by the coverage given to the Communist party congress.

Natively, one may ask why has the Moscow party congress more right to discuss such issues as Angola, Little East, etc., than Jews to discuss the situation of their own brethren in the Soviet Union.

But that's beside the point. The main aspect of the letter is the free, one-way use of Western media by the Russians, in this age of détente. Mr. Rehn, who claims to be an ordinary Soviet citizen, turns to such a prestigious forum as the HET.

Peter Lennon From London:

The news that Harold Wilson resigning casts a new light on... the small earthquake sustained by the parliamentary Labor party last week.

LONDON.—The news that Harold Wilson is resigning as Prime Minister casts a new light on the traumatic experience that the Labor government underwent last week when a left-wing revolt forced it to seek a vote of confidence. One of the casualties of the struggle may be the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, whose blundering handling of the left-wing challenge could ruin his chances of adequate support in the leadership election, in which he would normally have been a favorite.

The small earthquake sustained by the parliamentary Labor party last week left behind considerable debris and some unstable terrain. The debris is mostly in the form of a deep fissure in the minds of the Labor members who have been tearing heads in and out of Parliament since Thursday. The shaky terrain is in the form of a deep fissure which now openly divides the grievant left from a tentatively triumphant Labor government.

No Precedent

What happened on Wednesday was without precedent in peacetime Britain, although Churchill was faced with similar situations. The Labor government was defeated on a matter of major government policy—expenditure cuts—by the abstention of 37 members of its own party, most of them from the left-wing Tribune group.

Harold Wilson had to move quickly for a vote of confidence, challenging the rebels to abandon their principles or contribute to the fall of their own government. The confidence vote was won by a margin of 17.

The Conservatives are now contemplating the left-wing government with a new, power-hungry eye, and if the unfortunate Liberals were more than in their jubilation it is because for weeks they have been enduring a sordid leadership crisis which has effectively drained them of optimism.

Mr. Wilson could hardly have been surprised that his left wing would be dangerously hostile to the chancellor of the Exchequer, whose white paper on expenditure cuts, which would not have involved reductions in present outlays but cuts in levels proposed for the future. The suggested reductions would, however, have affected sensitive areas such as housing and schools.

The Tribune first helped defeat a Tony amendment, but in the showdown at the end of a

two-day debate the 37 refused to support the government. The government was defeated 28-38. Just about this moment the Bank of England was desperately spending \$200 million to halt a new slide in the sterling pound, so Mr. Wilson was under double pressure to assert his authority.

Censure to Bankers

For the sake of the threatened pound he had to demonstrate the prowess of Zurich that he was not in control.

Many feel that he and Chancellor Healey went about this in a particularly brutal fashion. Instead of cajoling the rebels back into the fold, both leaders taunted, derided, chastised and humiliated them.

Feeling the pressure, Mr. Wilson decided not to waste the time necessary to set up a detailed motion of confidence and offer a procedural motion which had a vote of confidence with the support of his expenditure policies. His tactic was to humiliate his challengers by having them, within 24 hours, publicly abandon their stand of principle.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Healey added insult to provocation. The Prime Minister accused the Tribune group of entering into an "unholy alliance" with the Conservatives and of creating a "poisonous atmosphere" which could be described as "a complete and total failure" as a reference to the favoring of Mrs. Thatcher, the Tories' leader. He wondered aloud whether the politically promiscuous rebels were worse if they went into the bedroom or stayed outside the door like liars.

Mr. Healey, who is rapidly developing a formidable reputation for aggressiveness, wounded a rebel more seriously with a personal language. He accused rebels of being "a complete and total failure" as a reference to the favoring of Mrs. Thatcher, the Tories' leader. He wondered aloud whether the politically promiscuous rebels were worse if they went into the bedroom or stayed outside the door like liars.

Real Issues

Behind this unseemly brawling were real issues. The left has pressed a genuine complaint inasmuch as the expenditure-cut proposal was reached not by consultation with the parliamentary Labor party but by a handful of ministers. The Tribune group, which has accepted the recommendations of the Conservative Treasury officials. The cuts in effect would have meant increases in the price of school meals, bus fares and other council house rents.

The rift in the Labor party over the proposal for a new taxation system more companies is a complex one and should not be as fundamental as it is. Mrs. Thatcher's attack on the Labor party as a "poisonous atmosphere" and near-Communist. But it would be more accurate to describe them as a Continental European terms as a "poisonous atmosphere" and near-Communist. But it would be more accurate to describe them as a Continental European terms as a "poisonous atmosphere" and near-Communist.

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On Whose Side?

It used to be simpler, when we knew whose side we were on, and I am confused by the possibilities of a U.S. sale of C-130s and other military equipment to Egypt. We have, of course, long been selling equipment to Israel. Undoubtedly, U.S. military advisers go along with such deals. If only to show buyers how to get the best out of their purchases. Thus the grotesque prospect, in case of a new clash, of Americans making war upon Americans, all in the service of their country. The only silver lining: it would probably be a fair fight—we already have neutral Americans in the Sinai to serve as referees.

Or has all this already happened somewhere in the world?

MORTON FUNER
Saint-Tropez, France

July 1976

Danish, Belgian Monies Hit

European Currencies Weakened Against Dollar

PARIS, March 16 (AP-DJ).—The French franc and the Danish krone were weakened against the dollar and most other currencies while the Belgian franc remained unshaken within the truncated currency zone.

The Danish krone fell against the dollar and most other currencies while the Belgian franc remained unshaken within the truncated currency zone.

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EXASPERATED—Sir Richard Marsh, head of Britain's state-run railway system, telling a news conference Monday he is quitting his job in exasperation over government tampering with the railways. He is to leave in September when his five-year contract ends.

U.S. Budget Office Questions Chance of Sustained Recovery

By Hobart Rowen

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP-DJ).—U.S. economic recovery this year is likely to be "fairly substantial," the Congressional Budget Office said yesterday, but the report also raised the question whether the recovery could continue into 1977 without changes in President Ford's budget proposals.

In its first annual report under the new budget process, the CBO stressed that Congress had many options in tax and budget policy.

"This is not a counter budget," CBO director Alice Rivlin told a press conference. "It attempts to lay out the choices before Congress."

The CBO report is made to the House of Representatives and one in the Senate, that must draft concurrent resolutions setting spending, revenues, and deficit targets in total and by function. Congress must complete action on the first such resolution by May 15.

The central policy issue, the report says, "is striking a balance between the stimulus the economy must have if it is to continue its recovery and the restraining needed to avoid rekindling high rates of inflation."

One fiscal strategy to achieve this balance, the report says, "is to use the 'one-time' budget, which would be the adoption of a 'current policy' budget, which shows what spending and revenues would be if present programs and tax laws were kept unchanged, but adjusted for inflation and population growth."

The "current policy" budget, used throughout the document as a "baseline" against which Congress can compare President Ford's proposed budget or other spending and tax plans, involves spending of about \$422 billion in fiscal 1977. The deficit would be from \$55 billion to \$65 billion, depending on the strength of the economic recovery.

Mr. Ford's budget calls for spending of \$394.2 billion, with a deficit of \$43 billion. It also calls for an additional \$10 billion net reduction in individual and corporate taxes over the last round of tax cuts, which have been extended through June, 1976.

Lower GNP Seen
Comparing the "more restrictive" presidential budget with the "baseline" policy budget, the CBO found that the administration proposal would lower real gross national product by 1.5 per cent by the end of 1977, and result in unemployment as much as 0.5 per cent higher. The extra inflationary cost of the "current policy" budget would be about 0.3 per cent a year after two or three years.

Under the law, Congress could override the President's decision, but administration and congressional sources said that this is not likely to happen. A White House source said that initial congressional reaction to Mr. Ford's decision has been favorable.

Mr. Dent said that the President had determined the specialty steel industry is being injured by imports, and "has directed me to negotiate orderly marketing agreements with key exporting countries within the next 90 days. If the negotiations are unsuccessful, the President will proclaim import quotas no later than June 14 for a period of three years."

If the import quotas become necessary, the overall totals would be comparable to those recommended by the ITC "but not necessarily on the same country-by-country or product-category basis," he said.

The ITC had recommended an import quota totaling 146,000 tons for the first year of the proposed five-year quota arrangements.

In opting for a three-year rather than a five-year limit on specialty steel import quotas, if these become necessary, U.S. officials said, the President considered the five-year period "too inflexible in view of the rapid expansions and contractions of the specialty steel market."

Mr. Ford also directed the Labor Department to speed up the processing of trade adjustment assistance to domestic steel workers displaced by import competition.

Prices Advance on New York Exchange
NEW YORK, March 16 (AP-DJ).—A favorable economic news flow, bargain hunting and strong support for selected issues enabled New York Stock Exchange prices to move along a firmer path today, reversing a two-day decline.

Among the encouraging items was the Commerce Department report of a rise in U.S. housing starts in February.

Analysts said the news tended to reinforce the Ford administration's contention that the United States economy is making a good recovery from the deep recession of a year ago.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 8.97 to 983.47. It was up 4.73 at 3 o'clock.

Advancing issues outnumbered declining by about 950 to about 550, and volume totaled 22.78 million shares, compared with 19.57 million yesterday.

To Seek Arrangement With Foreign Exporters Ford Decides Against Steel Import Quotas

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP-DJ).—President Ford decided today to suspend steel import quotas for 90 days while the government attempts to negotiate an international steel agreement with other countries.

The President's decision in the controversial specialty steel import case was announced by international trade negotiator Frederick Dent.

Mr. Ford rejected the Jan. 16 recommendations of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) that the steel import quotas be imposed immediately and be continued for a five-year period.

If an international steel agreement is not worked out within 90 days, Mr. Dent said, import quotas would be imposed for a three-year period unless the domestic industry recovers earlier from an economic downturn or unless steel products "become the subject of a sectoral trade agreement in the multilateral trade negotiations under way in Geneva."

U.S. imports of specialty steel, including stainless and tool-steel products, total about \$200 million a year, and come from Japan, Sweden and other European countries.

It had been expected that Mr. Ford, in his first major decision under the "import relief" provisions of the 1974 Trade Act, would reject the ITC recommendations and direct an alternative approach for dealing with the domestic steel industry's import problems.

Under the law, Congress could override the President's decision, but administration and congressional sources said that this is not likely to happen. A White House source said that initial congressional reaction to Mr. Ford's decision has been favorable.

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Other pharmaceutical shares

also posted smart gains. Schering-Plough rose 1 1/2 to 52 1/2, with Merck up 2 3/8 to 69 5/8, and Bristol-Myers 1 1/2 to 70 1/2.

American Finance System Corp., off 1/8 to 21 3/8, said it agreed to acquire American

Finance for \$7.50 in cash for each American Finance common share.

IBM rose 3/4 to 262 3/8, but Superscope fell 2 to 26 7/8, continuing its recent downturn.

Prices on the American Stock Exchange advanced in fairly active trading. The Amex index climbed 0.23 to 108.62.

Houston Oil & Minerals picked up 1 3/4 to 38 1/4. Vero Inc., which reported higher earnings, was unchanged at 10 in heavy trading.

In Chicago wheat futures declined 6 cents a bushel on the Board of Trade, but corn, oats and soybean prices were mixed.

Soybean oil futures were up about one-third cent a pound, but meal futures lost \$3 a ton.

Housing Starts
In U.S. Increase
A Record 27%

WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP-DJ).—U.S. housing starts rose a record 27 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,555,000 units in February from a revised 1,220,000 units in January, the Commerce Department reported today.

The department said the February gain was paced by a record 37.2-per-cent increase to 1,303,000 units in the rate for single-family housing starts, compared with a revised January rate of 950,000 units.

The Commerce Department said new privately owned housing construction authorized in February was running at an annual rate of 1,127,000 compared with a revised annual rate of 1,200,000 in January.

New single family units were authorized at an annual rate of 880,000 units in February, compared with January's 828,000.

Units in apartment buildings with five or more dwellings were authorized at an annual rate of 209,000 compared with January's 224,000.

The rate of housing starts in February was the highest since April, 1974, when starts reached 1,571,000.

U.S. Industry
Output Gains
WASHINGTON, March 16 (AP-DJ).—Industrial production climbed 0.6 per cent in February for the tenth monthly increase in a row, the Federal Reserve Board reported today.

The Fed's index of the output of U.S. factories, mines and utilities rose last month to 119.9 per cent of the 1967 average from 119.2 per cent in January, when the index increased 0.5 per cent.

U.S. Inventories' Increase Is Biggest Since Oct. 1974

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Reuters).—U.S. manufacturing and trade inventories rose \$1.3 billion in January following a revised decline of \$1.3 billion in December, the largest increase since the \$1.8-billion gain in October, 1974, the Commerce Department said today.

Total manufacturing inventories rose \$146.78 billion from \$145.57 billion in December, durable inventories slipped slightly to \$68.67 billion from \$68.76 billion but non-durable inventories rose to \$81.1 billion from \$80.82 billion.

The Commerce Department reported that combined business sales rose 1.1 per cent in January, increasing 1.9 per cent at the manufacturing level, and 2.3 per cent at the wholesale level. Retail sales, however, fell by 0.9 per cent.

The combined business stock to sales ratio at the end of January was 1.45 compared with 1.50 in December, and 1.67 in January, 1975.

Inventories at the retail level rose to \$73.61 billion from \$73.08 billion in December.

Durable inventories were little changed at \$33.51 billion compared with \$33.59 billion but non-durable inventories rose to \$40.1 billion from \$39.49 billion in December.

The Commerce Department said manufacturers' new orders rose 1.8 per cent in January, compared with an increase of 0.5 per cent in December.

Durable orders rose by 2.3 per cent while non-durable orders increased by 1.7 per cent.

Unfilled orders fell \$811 million to \$129 billion in January, while the unfilled orders to sales ratio was 2.43 at the end of January compared with 2.53 in December and 3.00 in January last year.

Japanese Payments Balance Moves Into Surplus in Month

TOKYO, March 16 (AP-DJ).—Japan's overall balance of payments was in surplus by \$630 million in February, against a year-earlier \$254-million surplus and a deficit of \$1,059 billion in January, the Finance Ministry said in a preliminary reckoning today.

The Finance Ministry's report also showed that Japan's long-term capital account posted a \$320-million surplus in February, compared with a deficit of \$51 million in January and a surplus of \$256 million in the like year-earlier month.

The country's services and transfers accounts, combined, registered a deficit of 486 million in February. In January, the services account was in deficit by \$482 million while the transfer account ran a \$51-million shortfall.

In February, 1975, the services deficit was \$470 million and the transfers shortfall \$16 million.

The short-term capital and errors and omissions accounts, combined, were in deficit by \$110 million last month. In January, short-term capital flows were in deficit by \$108 million, while the errors and omissions account showed a \$162-million surplus.

In February, 1975, short-term capital flows were in deficit by \$67 million, and the errors and omissions accounting showed a deficit of \$47 million.

Seasonally adjusted, the country ran a \$744-million overall payments surplus in February, against January's \$68-million seasonal deficit.

The Finance Ministry's report said that Japan had a trade surplus of \$680 million in February, against a year-earlier \$598-million trade surplus and January's \$554-million deficit.

Exports totaled \$4.71 billion, up from \$3.5 billion in January and \$4.3 billion in February 1975. Imports totaled \$4.05 billion, against \$4.1 billion in January and \$3.7 billion in February 1975.

Seasonally adjusted exports in February were \$5.1 billion, compared with \$4.9 billion in January, and imports were \$4.3 billion, compared with \$4.4 billion in January.

Japan's current account was in surplus by \$200 million in February, against January's \$1,067-billion deficit and February 1975's \$112-billion surplus.

Britain Widens
N. Sea Oil Stake
LONDON, March 16 (AP-DJ).—The British government today enlarged its control over North Sea oil for the third time in a month by securing 51-per-cent participation in Tricentrol Ltd.'s 21-per-cent stake in the Thistle field.

The accord brings the government's potential call on Thistle oil to about 19 per cent of the field's production, which is expected to peak at about 180,000 to 200,000 barrels a day around 1980.

In addition to the major share of Tricentrol's stake, the government has acquired control of other portions of the field through the state-owned National Coal Board, an original licensee, participation agreements with Gulf Oil Corp. and Continental Oil Co. announced late in February, and agreement in principle announced last week to acquire half of Burmah Oil Co.'s 17.3-per-cent Thistle stake.

Car Firm Breaks Even In First Five Months

LONDON, March 16 (Reuters).—British Leyland Ltd. broke even in the first five months of the current year to Sept. 30, ignoring windfall currency profits, acting chairman Robert Clark said today.

The state-owned company had a poor first three months but production and sales have improved since the new year, Mr. Clark told the annual meeting.

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